



KRISTO PIENAAR

GARDENING WITH
**INDIGENOUS
PLANTS**

Easy-to-grow South African plants for your garden



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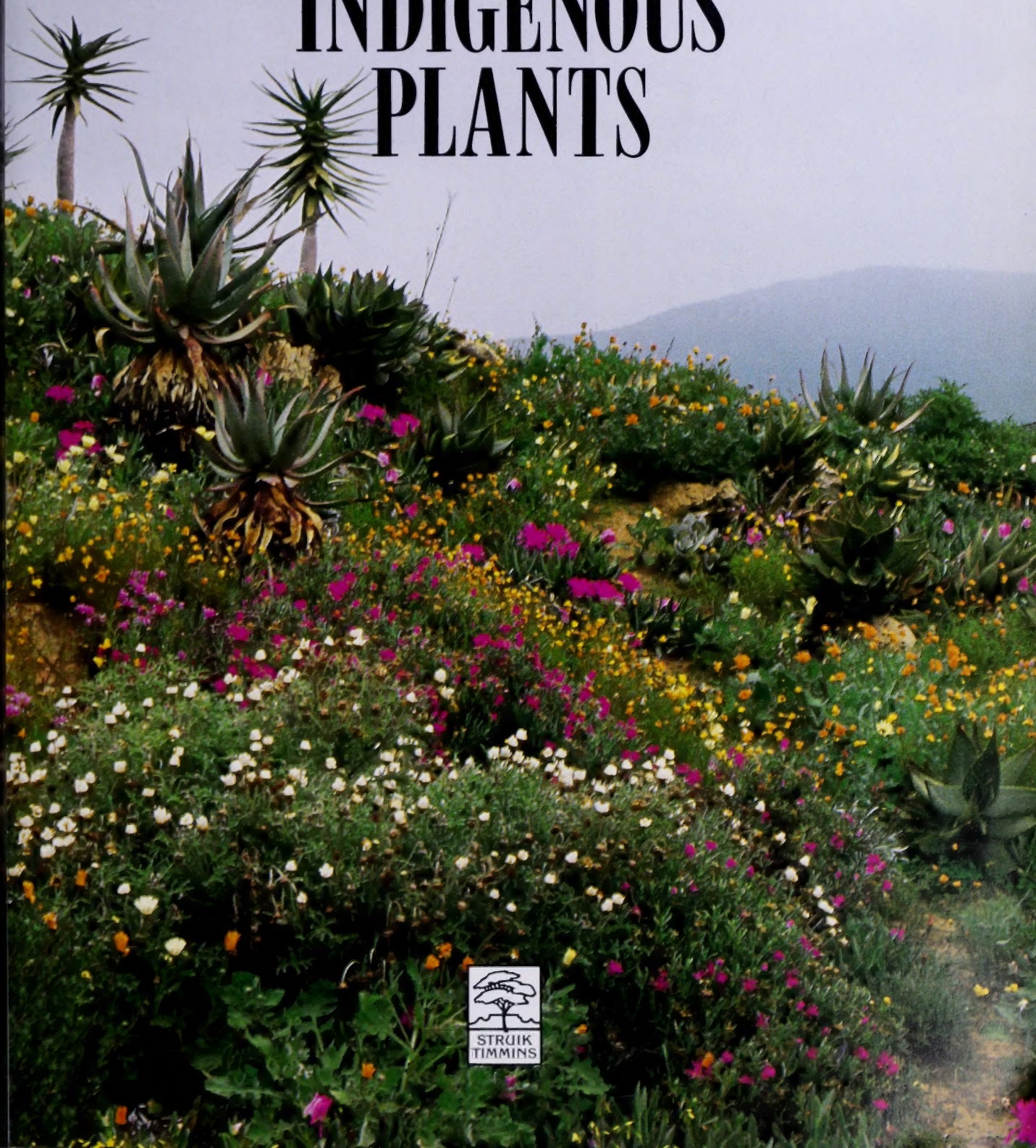


To my grandchildren



KRISTO PIENAAR

GARDENING WITH INDIGENOUS PLANTS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend my thanks to Annlerie van Rooyen and Wilsia Metz of Struik Timmins for producing this lovely book, and also to Abdul Amien who was responsible for the design. A special word of thanks to my wife and family – without their support and encouragement this book would not have been possible.

KRISTO PIENAAR
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Editor Annlerie van Rooyen

Design Abdul Amien

Cover design Robert Meas

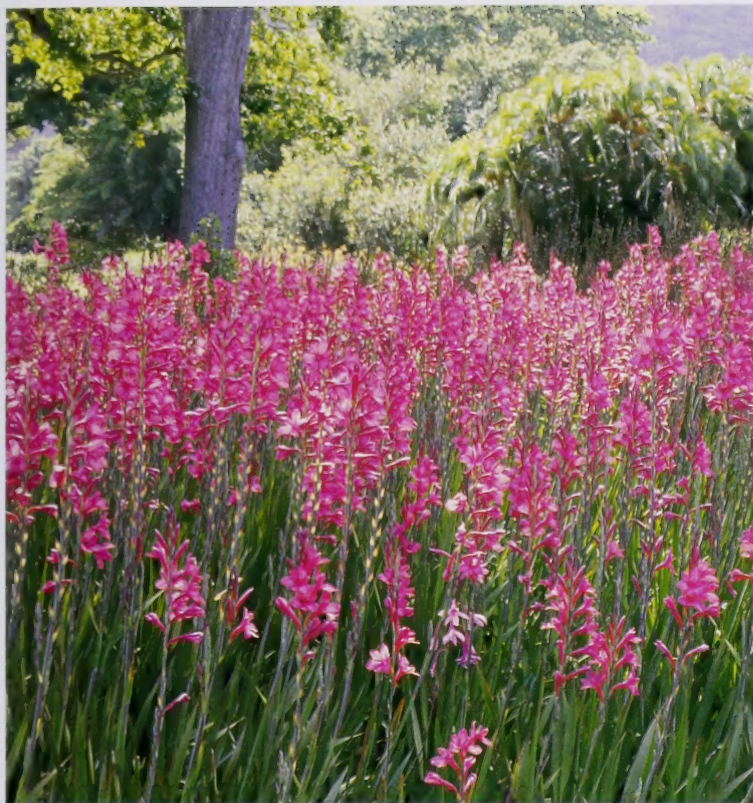
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Top left: *Watsonia* hybrid
 Left: *Dorotheanthus bellidiformis*

Glossary

Achene A simple, dry, one-seeded indehiscent fruit, with seed attached to the ovary wall at one point only.

Alternate Leaves develop on different levels – only one leaf per node.

Annual A plant that completes its life cycle within a year, i.e. it goes from seed to seed in one year.

Axil Angle of junction between leaf and stem.

Bark External tissue of a woody stem.

Biennial A plant that requires two years to complete its life cycle. Flowering is usually delayed until the second year.

Bi-labiate Two-lipped.

Bi-pinnate Compound leaf in which the leaflets themselves are pinnately divided.

Bract Any leaf that bears a flower, lateral branch or bud in its axil.

Bulb A short, underground stem with many fleshy, scale-like leaves.

Calyx Whorl of leaf-like green segments at the bottom of a dicotyledonous flower; the leaf-like parts are sepals.

Compound leaf A leaf consisting of two or more leaflets (pinnae).

Corm A modified, underground stem bearing scale leaves, filled with stored food and serving as the reproductive organ.

Corolla The petals of a flower, usually coloured.

Cultivar The result of deliberate experimentation to cultivate plants with specific characteristics; the word is derived from cultivated variety.

Deciduous A plant that loses its leaves annually, usually in autumn.

Endemic Confined to a particular area or region.

Entire Leaf margin smooth, without indentations.

Epiphyte A (non-parasitic) aerial plant not attached to the ground, for example some orchid species that grow on trees.

Evergreen A plant that retains its leaves throughout the year.

Family A group of related genera with similar major characteristics.

Genus A group of one or more closely related plants to which species, varieties, cultivars, etc. belong.

Habitat Environment or locality in which a plant grows.

Head A short, flattened, dense cluster of flowers, for example a daisy flower.

Herbaceous Non-woody.

Hybrid The offspring produced by crossing two plants that differ genetically.

Inflorescence The arrangement of a plant's flowers; a group of flowers on a common stem.

Involucre Whorl(s) of bracts surrounding a number of flowers.

Lobed Leaf blade deeply cut or indented, nearly to the midrib or base.

Midrib The main vein of a net-veined leaf.

Node Slightly enlarged part of a stem where the leaves and buds develop.

Palmately compound Where the leaves of a compound leaf at the apex of the petiole resemble a hand with fingers, for example a cabbage tree leaf.

Peduncle The stem of an inflorescence.

Perianth Calyx, corolla or both.

Petal A unit of the corolla, usually coloured.

Petiole That part which joins the leaf blade to the stem.

Pinnately compound A compound leaf in which the small leaflets are arranged on either side of the midrib.

Pistil Female part of a flower (the ovary, style and stigma).

Raceme Inflorescence in which stalked flowers are carried on a long stem, for example an aloe flower.

Rachis Common stem (midrib) in a compound leaf, which bears the leaflets or pinnae and pinnules.

Rhizome Underground stem, often fleshy, which grows horizontally and bears roots and leafy shoots.

Root-stock Fleshy, underground stem with short internodes, that grows upwards and bears roots and leafy shoots.

Rosette Leaves arranged in a circle.

Sepal A unit of the calyx, normally green.

Sessile Without a stalk or stem.

Simple leaf Leaf not divided into leaflets.

Spadix Fleshy axis bearing large numbers of small flowers, for example the arum lily.

Spathe Often coloured, bract-like structure partly surrounding the spadix, for example the arum lily.

Specimen tree or plant A tree or plant that shows up well on its own.

Spike Sessile flowers on an elongated stem.

Stamen Male part of the flower, consisting of a filament and anther (in which the pollen is produced).

Stigma That portion of the pistil that receives the pollen.

Stolon A shoot hugging the ground and giving rise to new plants; it often grows from a bulb or corm.

Subsp. Subspecies – slightly different from the species. The subspecific epithet (name) follows the abbreviation subsp.

Succulent A plant with fleshy parts.

Synonym Former name of a plant which has been rejected as a result of new facts and reclassification.

Tepal A perianth segment which is not clearly distinguishable as being either a sepal or a petal.

Terminal At the tip.

Trifoliolate Compound leaf with three leaflets, for example the karree.

Trumpet-shaped A flower with a narrow corolla tube widening like a trumpet in front or at the top.

Tuber A fleshy, modified, underground stem or root.

Umbel Stalked inflorescence with flowers arising from a single point.

Var. Variety – when species differ only in some minor definable characteristics from the rest of the species; the name is preceded by the abbreviation var.

Vein Vascular bundles visible as lines in leaves.

Venation Arrangement of veins in a leaf blade.

Whorled Leaves in whorls around a stem.

Introduction

Southern Africa is home to the richest floral kingdom in the world. The western Cape in particular is famous for its wide variety of flowering plants. Known as fynbos, the plants in this region constitutes one of the six floral kingdoms. Occupying only 0,04% of the earth's surface, it is the smallest yet richest floral kingdom on earth.

The hitherto unknown interest in planting our indigenous plants in gardens, parks, around factories and along highways increase on a daily basis. This book will therefore be a great asset to all garden enthusiasts. I chose only the most beautiful species and they are all readily available. Not only do they represent plants for every taste and garden throughout southern Africa, but experience has also shown that they are all quite easy to grow.

To make life easier for gardeners, the plants have been divided into nine chapters: Trees, Shrubs, Annuals, Herbaceous perennials, Bulbs, Succulents, Climbers, Ground covers and Water plants. Each chapter starts with a short introduction, briefly describing the specific plants as well as soil preparation. The plants follow in alphabetical order according to their scientific (botanic) names, the common names and plant family, and symbols showing the most important growth requirements are also included (see opposite column for an explanation of the symbols). Each entry contains information about the plant's distinctive characteristics, its description, its cultivation and care, and its propagation. Often more than one species of a genus are illustrated and described briefly.

Without good, balanced and friable soil that drains easily, gardening is no pleasure. Ask an expert to analyse the soil or do it yourself by using one of the soil testing kits available from most garden suppliers. This will enable you to ascertain the soil content and problems can thus be sorted out right at the start.

The acidity of the soil can also be determined with one of the soil testing kits. Most plants prefer a pH of 6,5-7, which can be regarded as neutral. Acid soils have a pH below 7 (the lower the figure, the higher the acidity) and alkaline soils have figures above 7 (the higher the figure, the higher the alkaline content).

To add acidity to the soil, for example when growing proteas and heath, add a good amount of pine bark, rotten pine needles, and acacia and wattle leaves to the soil. Small amounts of sulphur (unfortunately it works very slowly) or two handfuls of aluminium, ammonium or iron sulphate per m² can be added twice a year. To increase the alkaline content of the soil, sprinkle small amounts of lime over the soil. Plants such as Namaqualand daisies and gazanias thrive in alkaline soil.

Brackish soil results from salts that accumulate due to little rain in a specific area. To improve the soil, add a lot of compost or old kraal manure and overwater the soil to drain excess salt.

AVAILABILITY OF THE PLANTS

Growing plants from seed is still one of the most successful propagation methods. By joining the Botanical Society of South Africa (Private Bag X7, Claremont 7735), you will receive a list of seeds available annually. Depending on the kind of membership, for example as an individual or as a family, you will receive packets of seed (of your own choice) free of charge.

The Kirstenbosch National Botanic Gardens in Cape Town, as well as the seven regional gardens, namely the Karoo National Botanic Gardens at Worcester, the Harold Porter Gardens at Betty's Bay and the botanic gardens at Bloemfontein, Roodepoort, Pretoria, Nelspruit and Pietermaritzburg sell plants daily. On special sale days large numbers of plants are available to the public at reduced prices.

Most nurseries already sell a wide variety of indigenous plants or could order them if not available.

FERTILIZERS

The three basic fertilizers listed here will be totally sufficient:

- 3:2:1 (28) SR for healthy and luxuriant growth
- 3:1:5 (26) SR for flowers and fruit
- Superphosphate or bone phosphate for strong root development

Always use small amounts for best results.

PHOTOGRAPHS

I have taken all the photographs included in the book, apart from the cover photograph by Nancy Gardiner. Colours are true to life, although the shades of some blue and pink flowers might in some cases be slightly darker or lighter.














GLOSSARY

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with botanical terms, a glossary is provided on p. 6.

INDEX

A comprehensive index containing all the botanic, and English and Afrikaans common names, as well as the necessary cross-references, appear at the back of the book (p. 94).

EXPLANATION OF THE SYMBOLS

-  some frost
-  full frost
-  tender to frost
-  lots of water
-  average water
-  little water
-  deciduous
-  full sun
-  half sun
-  shade-loving
-  specimen tree
-  evergreen
-  wind resistant

4 x 3 m expected height and spread

1. TREES

Of all garden plants a tree must be chosen and planted with the greatest possible care. Study the requirements of the tree and determine its height, spread and rooting characteristics. To reach its ultimate beauty at maturity, every tree needs enough space and the best possible position.

The size of the planting hole should not be less than 500 mm² and 500 mm deep. Keep the topsoil (a full spade depth) and the subsoil separate. Mix mature compost or old kraal manure with both heaps. If the soil is rather poor, put the topsoil at the bottom and mix in 1 kg of superphosphate or bone phosphate. Fill the rest of the hole with the subsoil.

Wet the hole thoroughly a few days before planting to keep the surrounding soil moist. The tree should be planted just as deep as it grew in the container or plastic bag. Remove the bag carefully so as not to disturb the soil surrounding the roots – 2 diagonal slits in the bag will ease removal. Place the tree in the hole and fill it halfway with soil. Water well, fill the hole to the correct height and press the soil down firmly.

Mound round the surface of the tree so that water is contained when good soakings are given – once a week for at least the first year. To support the young tree, drive a 2 m stake about 75 cm into the ground next to the stem and tie it firmly to the stake with soft binding material like an old nylon stocking – this will prevent the bark from being damaged and will not restrict the growth of the stem.



Acacia karroo

Acacia karroo

Common name Sweet thorn; Soetdoring

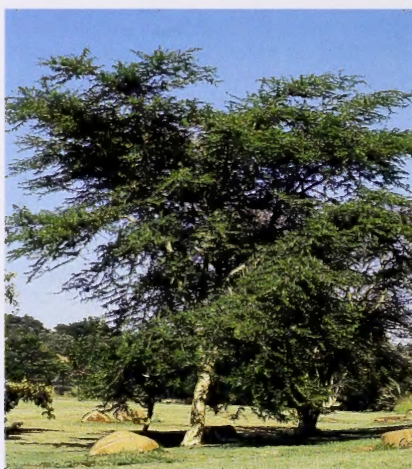
Family Fabaceae (Legume family)

Subfamily Mimosoideae (Thorn tree family)

6 x 6 m      

Distinctive characteristics A tree with a round crown. Mostly evergreen, it has a black trunk, golden-yellow flower heads in summer, and bears characteristic long, white thorns. It is a rewarding plant as it grows readily in various habitats.

Description Of all our indigenous thorn trees, the sweet thorn is probably the best known as it occurs in almost all parts of the country. Depending on the climate and habitat, it varies in habit and size – from shrub-like to a large tree. It is a hardy species that can sometimes survive seemingly impossible growing conditions. Typical of the genus, the leaves are bi-pinnately compound, and although the tree may lose its leaves in cold regions, it will rapidly come into leaf again after winter. In summer the golden-yellow, sweet-scented globose flower heads



A. xanthophloea

appear in abundance, giving the tree a very decorative appearance. It is fast growing and has many uses: the leaves and pods make excellent fodder; with its large quantities of nectar and pollen it is an ideal 'bee tree'; and the wood is hard and heavy.

Cultivation and care It grows quickly and easily if planted in a large hole filled with a generous mixture of compost, kraal manure and garden topsoil. Water it regularly and adequately in the beginning: rain-water will suffice once it is established. Although this species prefers full sun, it will also grow well in partly-shaded areas. It shows up well as an isolated specimen tree on a fairly large lawn.







Propagation From seed soaked in water for approximately 3 days (or even a few hours in fairly hot water), before being planted in ordinary garden soil. Half-grown trees are often available from nurseries.



A. sieberiana var. *woodii*

A. sieberiana var. woodii







Common name Paperbark; Papierbas

8 x 12 m      

Description It occurs in Natal, the Transvaal Lowveld and Bushveld. The wide, flat, umbrella-like crown and pale yellow bark which flakes off in papery strips are distinctive. The latter accounts for its common name. A lovely tree for dry areas with little frost. It also grows well near the coast.

A. xanthophloea

Common name Fever tree; Koorsboom

12 x 12 m      

Description It grows wild in northern Zululand, the Transvaal Lowveld and Swaziland. Its unusual greenish-yellow bark is characteristic and the common name, fever tree, refers to the fact that it grows wild in areas where malaria occurs. Suitable for warmer areas with little frost and without long periods of drought.



Alberta magna

Alberta magna

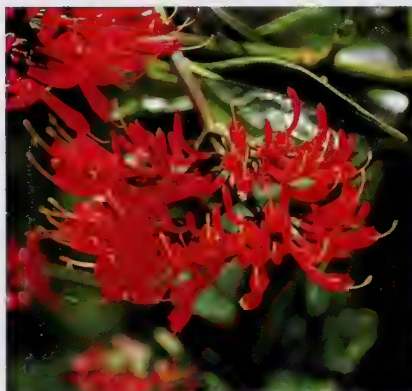
Common name Natal flame bush; Breekhout or Natalse vlamboom

Family Rubiaceae (Coffee family)
10 x 4 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics An ever-green tree with dark green, shiny foliage and groups of superb scarlet flowers in early spring.

Description The Natal flame bush grows very slowly in a garden and seldom exceeds 10 m in height. With its dark green, shiny foliage, it is always very striking in any garden, big or small, and shows up best as an isolated specimen tree. The leaves are ovate and pointed, up to 120 mm long and have prominent midribs. Clusters of tubular, scarlet flowers, 25 mm in length, appear in early spring, giving the tree a spectacular appearance. The sepals, which are red at this stage, remain after the flowers themselves have fallen, leaving the tree decorative for many weeks. The young branchlets and leaves are reddish.

Alberta magna is one of our most beautiful indigenous trees and deserves to be planted in greater numbers.



A. magna

Cultivation and care Although it grows slowly, it flowers sooner if planted in a large hole (1 m²) in fertile, well-drained soil, with plenty of water and sun. It grows wild in the eastern parts of the country and is really only suited to coastal or hot areas where the air is never too dry and no heavy frosts occur. It also grows well in regions with a high rainfall.

Propagation Difficult to grow from seed or cuttings; rather buy a specimen from a nursery.



Bolusanthus speciosus

Bolusanthus speciosus

Common name Tree wistaria; Vanwykhout or Boomwisteria

Family Fabaceae (Legume family)

Subfamily Faboideae (Pea family)

8 x 4 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics A tree with a brownish-black, rough bark, pinnately compound leaves and beautiful, drooping sprays of violet-blue, pea-shaped flowers, resembling those of the wistaria, in spring.

Description This tree from the Transvaal Lowveld and the warm parts of northern Natal is commonly regarded as one of the most attractive of all garden trees. Unfortunately it is sensitive to very heavy frost, but will withstand light frost once established – it is, for example, highly successful in Pretoria and protected areas on the Witwatersrand. In gardens it seldom grows higher than 6-8 m, but given good soil and sufficient water, it can be fast growing. An important characteristic is the dark, brownish-black and very conspicuous stem. The flower sprays are up to 150 mm long and in full bloom the tree creates a display of unequalled splendour. The branches arch and droop slightly.

Cultivation and care Plant the tree in a large hole (1 m²) and good garden soil to which ample compost has been added. It requires plenty of water and full sun.

Propagation Numerous flat pods appear after the flowering season and the seed germinates relatively easily. Young trees grown from seed, transplant best when they are bigger and older.

A number of these beautiful trees are planted along the road at the entrance to the National Botanical Institute in Pretoria



Brachylaena discolor subsp. *discolor*

Brachylaena discolor
subsp. *discolor*

Common name Wild silver oak,
Kusvaalbos

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
5 x 4 m ☀ ☂ ☁ ☔ 🌿 🌱

Distinctive characteristics One of the few plants in the daisy family to reach tree size. The leaves are dark green on top in sharp contrast to the greyish-white under-surface that gives the tree its silvery appearance.

Description Found in the coastal bush areas of the eastern Cape and Natal, this evergreen species is useful for everyone with seaside holiday houses as it is a willing grower and requires no special care. The habit varies considerably, from shrub-like plants to typical trees. In full bloom the huge sprays of thistle-like, creamy-white flowers create the impression of snow in summer. Flowering season varies from autumn to spring, depending on the locality.

Cultivation and care These hardy, fast-growing trees thrive in ordinary garden soil and are excellent windbreak specimens for the coastal garden. It is easy to shape them – sometimes the soft, drooping branches have to be pruned to keep the trees tidy. They grow well inland in those areas where only mild frost occurs.

Propagation Propagate from cuttings as seedlings will grow too slowly. Take hardwood cuttings in early spring and plant them in sandy soil. Water regularly, never allowing the soil to dry out.



Calodendrum capense



C. capense

Calodendrum capense

Common name Cape chestnut or Wild chestnut; Kaapse or Wildekastaing

Family Rutaceae (Buchu or Orange family)
10 x 10 m ☀ ☂ ☁ ☔ 🌿 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A small to medium evergreen or deciduous tree with large heads of pink flowers – each of which has 5 characteristic light red, sterile stamens that resemble petals but have purplish dots (glands).

Description This tree grows in forests from the south-western Cape, through Transkei up to Natal and parts of the eastern Transvaal. It has a round crown and ovate leaves, 200 x 100 mm, which have translucent gland dots and a lemon fragrance. The large heads of light pink flowers appear in summer and are very conspicuous. Spreading like a star, the 5 petals are narrow and long. The fruits are approximately 40 mm in diameter and covered with wart-like protuberances. This is without doubt one of the loveliest ornamental and shade trees in our country; in fact, the generic name *Calodendrum* means beautiful tree. It is strongly recommended for all areas where heavy frost does not occur.

Cultivation and care Plant the Cape chestnut in a large hole (1 m³) and good soil with ample compost or old kraal manure. A rather slow-growing plant, it will only start flowering after 6-7 years. Plant it in full sun in the garden and water adequately. Plants are available from nurseries. It does best in a mild climate with lots of rain.

Propagation From seed (ripe at the end of summer) or from cuttings that must be grown with great care. Cuttings are obtained from half-grown shoots.

Celtis africana

Common name White stinkwood; Wit-stinkhout

Family Ulmaceae

10 x 4 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿 🌾

Distinctive characteristics A deciduous ornamental tree with leaves which are asymmetrical at the base and rough on the upper surface.

Description The white stinkwood is undoubtedly our best-known and most successful indigenous tree – presumably the reason why it is already so well represented in parks and gardens, and planted as a street tree in cities and towns throughout the country. A willing grower, it needs little care and even does extremely well on the Highveld. The stem and branches are silver, profusely branched and carry beautiful foliage. After winter the tree comes into leaf very quickly, showing lovely light green foliage within a couple of weeks. The common name, white stinkwood, is somewhat misleading as it is not related to the famous stinkwood, *Ocotea bullata*.

Cultivation and care The white stinkwood grows in almost any soil type – if planted in a warm climate and a large hole (1 m²) with good garden soil, plenty of compost and sufficient water, it grows rapidly, sometimes surprisingly so. Plant it as an isolated specimen tree on a large lawn or along the driveway as a shade tree.

Propagation The seeds germinate very successfully and the seedlings grow quite rapidly – a young tree can easily grow 1-2 m a year.



Celtis africana



Cunonia capensis

Cunonia capensis

Common name Red alder; Rooiels

Family Cunoniaceae (Red alder family)

10 x 4 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿 🌾

Distinctive characteristics An evergreen tree with very characteristic large, spoon-shaped stipules. Cylindrical inflorescences, approximately 100 mm long, consist of innumerable creamy-white flowers.

Description The red alder is an impressive, evergreen shade tree suitable for a big garden, reaching 10 m in gardens but much more in the wild. The stem is thick and the bark is dark and rough. It branches freely, forming a fine, wide crown as a result. The leaves are glossy green, lanceolate, approximately 70 mm long, and have serrated leaf margins. In autumn, the cylindrical inflorescences appear, bearing many creamy-white flowers which later develop into the seed pods and numerous winged seeds. The red alder is sensitive to heavy frost – it prefers a warm, moist climate and will grow well at the coast. Red alders are widespread throughout South Africa.

Cultivation and care Needs a large planting hole (1 m²) and good garden soil to which old kraal manure or good compost has been added. Water regularly and generously during the first 2-3 years. Plant it in full sun as a specimen tree. In areas with a favourable climate, it grows quite fast.

Propagation Cuttings taken and planted in early summer grow very successfully. The seeds are also very viable – cover them with a thin layer of soil when sowing. Always keep the seed beds moist.

Combretum erythrophyllum

Common name Bush-willow; Vaderlandswilg

Family Combretaceae (Bush-willow family)

9 x 12 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿 🌾

Distinctive characteristics A deciduous tree growing fairly large and wide. Leaves turn russet and yellow in autumn.

Description The bush-willow is often seen along streams in the Bushveld, the Transvaal Highveld and Natal. *Erythrophyllum* is Greek for red leaves and refers to the tree's lovely autumn colours. Flowers are small and insignificant, but the four-winged fruits are distinctive of this family.

Cultivation and care In normal conditions the tree will grow fairly quickly. It can be pruned from the base to assure an attractive bole. Plant the young tree in a large hole in rich soil and give ample water. It is tender to full frost, especially when young. Trees grown in plastic bags are available.



Combretum erythrophyllum



Cussonia spicata

Cussonia spicata

Common name Cabbage tree; Kiepersol or Sambreelboom

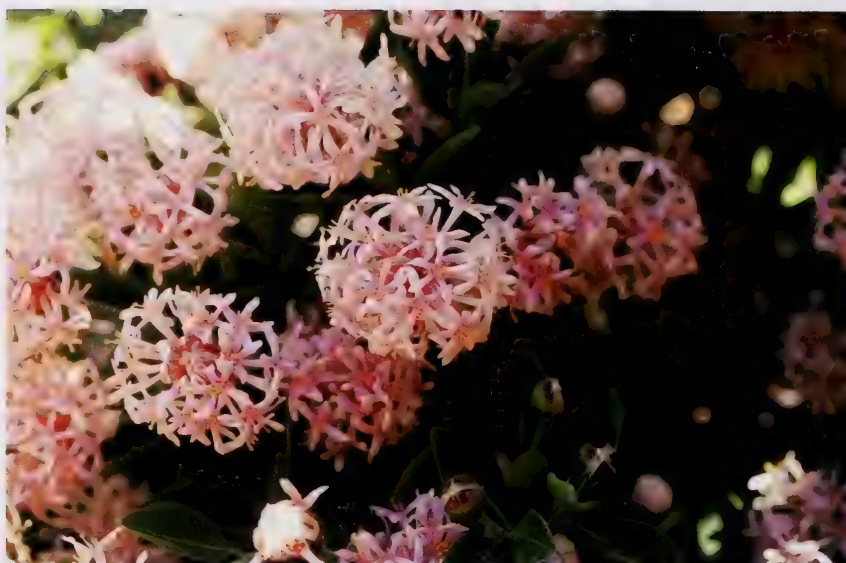
Family Araliaceae (Cabbage tree family)
10 x 4 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A very decorative, evergreen tree with palmately double compound leaves arranged in a dense head at the top of the stem, resembling an enormous feather duster.

Description The growth form varies – it often has a single, thick and upright bole with a crown of leaves, but sometimes the stem branches 1-2 m above the ground, forming a number of branches each with its own crown of leaves at the top. The height varies from 3-10 m. The dark green to bluish-green leaves are crowded at the ends of the branches. They are palmately compound, each with 5-9 leaflets arising from the end of a long petiole (up to 500 mm). Leaflets are also compound – at one or two places incised up to the midrib. Flowers are small, insignificant and arranged in long, cylindrical inflorescences which arise at a branch tip simultaneously. They look like candelabras.

Cultivation and care Widespread in the warmer areas of South Africa, often in mountain forest or on rocky outcrops. They prefer full sun and will grow successfully in almost any type of soil. Plant them in deep, rich soil for quick and luxuriant growth. Good drainage and little water are important. In groups of 3-4, they will form an attractive focal point in any garden. Plants in plastic bags are available.

C. paniculata



Dais cotinifolia

C. paniculata

Common name Highveld cabbage tree; Hoëveld-kiepersol

5 x 2 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿

Description Fairly widespread in quite moist inland areas of South Africa, with a preference for dolomite hillocks. This cabbage tree is very attractive, partly deciduous and with a single bole or branched. Each of the lovely greyish-green leaves at the stem tips has a long petiole ending in 5-13 leaflets palmately arranged. Leaflets differ from those of *Cussonia spicata* in being simple, but distinctly lobed or wide toothed. With its umbrella-like growth form, it is a very attractive garden plant and contrasts sharply with other plants. They lend a truly indigenous atmosphere to their environment.



Dais cotinifolia

Common name Pompon tree; Kannabas

Family Thymelaeaceae

6 x 4 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A very attractive tree with bluish-green leaves and characteristic pink to mauve pompon inflorescences.

Description This is one of our most successful and valuable indigenous garden trees, growing wild from the eastern Cape, through Transkei and Natal up to the eastern Transvaal. It grows exceptionally fast and flowers while it is still very young. The pompon tree only grows about 5-6 m high in a garden and develops a wide, round crown. The leaves are 30-60 mm long, 25-35 mm wide, ovate and bluish green. In early summer masses of globose flower heads, the size of golf balls, appear in colours ranging from pink to lilac. Each small flower is thinly tubular and spreads open in front in 5 narrow petals, showing prominent golden-yellow anthers. Few other species can match the splendour of this tree in full bloom and it deserves a place in every garden and park in South Africa. It is evergreen in areas where the climate is not too cold. Its bark contains tannin which was used by the Voortrekkers for tanning hides.

Cultivation and care Pompon trees grow throughout South Africa. Plant the tree in a large hole (1 m²) with good garden soil and adequate compost – water generously during the first 2 years. Excellent as a lawn tree.

Propagation It grows very easily and successfully from seed and wild shoots. This tree cannot be recommended strongly enough.

Dombeya rotundifolia

Common name Wild pear, Dikbas or Hardepeer

Family Sterculiaceae (Sterculia family)
6 x 6 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿 🌾

Distinctive characteristics A smallish deciduous tree with almost circular leaves with serrated margins and a rough surface. The bole becomes covered with dark rough bark

Description This is a very lovely bushveld tree, growing 5-6 m high. Mostly with a single bole and a round, spreading crown. Leaves are simple, petioled, nearly circular and dark green. They feel thick and rough. Bright white and sometimes light pink flowers appear in late winter. They are small and carried in clusters, covering the whole tree in white. This contrasts sharply with the dark bole and branches. Flowers become brownish after a while and are eventually dropped. Leaves appear after the flowering time.

Cultivation and care Plant the young, small tree in a large hole filled with compost-rich soil. It will grow well in hot, dry areas and even at the coast. Give plenty of water during the first 2 years and less afterwards. The wild pear is a tough plant and will withstand droughts and some frost



Dombeya rotundifolia

Ekebergia capensis

Common name Cape ash; Essenhout

Family Meliaceae (Mahogany family)
10 x 8 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿 🌾

Distinctive characteristics A large, evergreen tree with unequally pinnate, compound leaves and berry-like red fruits

Description Depending on prevailing wet or dry conditions, this tree is evergreen or deciduous respectively. In colder parts it also tends to lose its leaves, but the new foliage develops very quickly. With its wide, spreading crown, it is a useful shade tree, and grows fairly quickly. The flowers are small and insignificant, the fruits glossy red when they ripen in February and March

Cultivation and care Plant the tree in a large hole (1 m²) in good garden soil with plenty of compost, and in full sun. Water generously and it will grow quickly in warm areas of the country

Propagation Its seed germinates extremely well and, given the right conditions, it grows very fast

An ordinary city garden will probably not have enough space for this magnificent tree, but greater use should be made of it in city parks and open spaces.





Ekebergia capensis

Encephalartos altensteinii

Common name Eastern Cape cycad;
Oos-Kaapse broodboom

Family Zamiaceae (Cycad family)

4 x 3 m     

Distinctive characteristics Cone-bearing plants with a palm-like appearance

Description South Africa's own 'living fossils' are represented in this genus of approximately 30 species, commonly known as cycads. Native to the warm summer rainfall areas, they are protected very strictly. *Encephalartos* species lend an exotic touch to the garden and are not difficult to grow. They can be obtained (with the necessary permit) from the Department of Nature and Environmental Conservation in the Transvaal – the officers there will also be able to recommend the best species for the climate of your area. Male and female plants are separate and can only be identified when they form cones. The cones develop at the tip of the stem, the latter being strong, solid and covered with old leaf bases. Cycads seldom branch and the large, rigid, leathery, compound leaves, up to 3.5 m long, are borne in terminal rosettes. The leaves are important in the identification of the species. A new set of leaves is not necessarily formed every year, but old, dead leaves can be cut down.

Cultivation and care Cycads grow successfully in good garden soil and in full sun. Water sparingly, but regularly.

Propagation They germinate easily from seed but it takes years before seedlings develop into half-grown trees. Many species form young plants around their bases; remove and plant them



Encephalartos altensteinii



E. friderici-guilielmi

Common name White-haired cycad;
Withaarbroodboom

4 x 2 m     

Distinctive characteristics The crown is open and always thickly woolly. Of all cycad species, the white-haired cycad bears the largest number of cones. Male plants may have up to 12 cones and female plants bear 5-6 cones. Cones are densely woolly.

Cultivation and care It is very easy to cultivate and is a vigorous grower. Full sun and good drainage is essential. It readily adapts to varying climatic conditions and can tolerate frost.

E. friderici-guilielmi

Erythrina lysistemon

Common name Common coral tree;
Gewone koraalboom

Family Fabaceae (Legume family)

Subfamily Faboideae (Pea family)

10 x 6 m 🌞 🌱 🌿 🌳 🌴

Distinctive characteristics A large tree with abundant clusters of scarlet flowers which appear before the leaves.

Description This genus consists mainly of deciduous trees and shrubs that are widespread in warmer areas of the country. Erythras are cultivated for their beautiful flowers which appear on bare branches at the end of winter and in early spring. The common coral tree is probably the best-known species. It has a fairly sparse crown and the trunk and branches are usually light-coloured and smooth. The leaves are trifoliate, fairly large and often infected with yellowish-green insect galls. However, it is the magnificent flowers and flower clusters that make this one of the most superb flowering trees. The scarlet flowers appear before the leaves and the most noticeable part of each flower is a large, closed petal. Even the sepals are red. The pods are long, slender and segmented, and the seeds, the so-called 'lucky beans', are orange-red with a black spot at the hilum.

Cultivation and care It prefers full sun and a warm climate, although beautiful specimens of *Erythrina lysistemon* are grown in Johannesburg. Plant it as a specimen tree on a large lawn or in front of the house where everyone can enjoy its spring flowers. It needs no special care, will thrive in any deep soil and is drought resistant. A rewarding and easily-grown coral tree.

Propagation It grows easily from seed or cuttings – in fact, the quickest way of growing a coral tree is to plant a whole branch.

E. caffra

Common name Coast coral tree; Kus-koraalboom

10 x 6 m 🌞 🌱 🌿 🌳 🌴

Distinctive characteristics Flowers are shorter and open much wider than those of *E. lysistemon*. Petals are also wider. Flowers are orange-red and sometimes even cream-coloured.

Cultivation and care It will grow in almost any type of soil with good drainage. As indicated by its common name, it can be grown close to the coast. Every garden in Southern Africa should have at least one common or coast coral tree.



Erythrina lysistemon



E. caffra



Ficus sur

Ficus sur

Common name Broom cluster fig;
Besemtrosvy or Kaapse vy

Family Moraceae (Fig family)
20 x 5 m ☀ ☂ 🌧 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A large semi-deciduous to evergreen tree that bears its fruits of big orange to red figs in branched clusters on its stem and branches.

Description A beautiful shade tree with a wide crown and large (100 x 55 mm) leaves that are reddish brown when young. The fruits are up to 30 mm in diameter and edible – they can be used to make a delicious jam. *Ficus sur* should be planted in a large garden: it reaches a height of 20 m.

Cultivation and care It prefers a warm climate and grows well and fairly rapidly in any deep soil. Plant it far from the house and drainpipes, and water adequately and regularly.

Propagation From seed and cuttings.

Greyia sutherlandii

Common name Natal bottlebrush;
Natalse baakhout

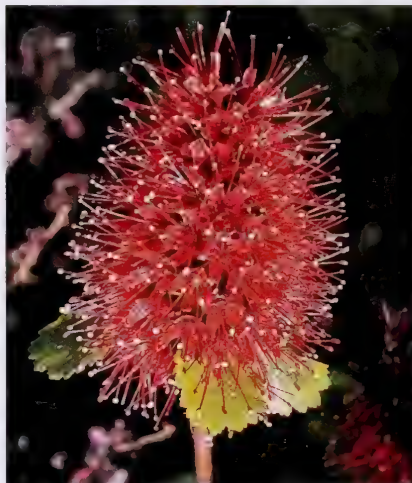
Family Greyiaceae
5 x 3 m ☀ ☂ 🌧 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A shrub or tree with large, almost circular leaves and showy red flowers in bottlebrush racemes.

Description This deciduous shrub or tree only grows about 3-5 m high in gardens. Before the leaves appear, the plant is adorned with lovely, large bottlebrush-like racemes of flowers which produce vast quantities of nectar, thus attracting bees and birds. Flowering season is from late winter to early spring, and is followed by the appearance of the leaves. These are ovate to circular with lobed margins



F. sur



Greyia sutherlandii

and are slightly rough. The petioles are approximately 70 mm long. The stem and branches appear to be succulent and break easily. This very decorative plant is strongly recommended and is already popular in parks and gardens.

Cultivation and care Given good garden soil and plenty of compost in a large hole, this highly ornamental plant will flourish. Water sufficiently in the dry summer months, but less during winter. As bitterly cold conditions will damage unseasonal flowers and leaves, rather plant the bottlebrush in a fairly sheltered spot on the Highveld. It grows well throughout South Africa and flowers regularly every year. *Greyia sutherlandii* is available from nurseries.

Propagation Mainly, and very successfully, from cuttings planted in spring.



G. sutherlandii

Harpephyllum caffrum

Common name Wild plum; Wildepruim

Family Anacardiaceae (Mango family)

14 x 8 m 🌞🌞🌞🌞🌞🌞

Distinctive characteristics A dark green tree. Leaves compound with each pinna or leaflet sessile, lancet-shaped and lopsided to slightly sickle-shaped. Fruit red and similar to small prunes.

Description A lovely, medium large, partly deciduous tree with an attractive, dense, spreading crown. Leaves are compound and characteristically grouped towards the branch tips. They are about 200 mm long with 9-17 leaflets, the latter being sessile, lopsided, lancet and slightly sickle-shaped. Even the mid-rib is off-centre and slightly sickle-shaped. Upper surface is shiny. Male and female plants are separate – distinctive of the mango family. Flowers are small and insignificant, but the berry-like fruits are 20-30 mm long, red when ripe with an acid taste but nonetheless edible. The wild plum is widespread in coastal and mountain forests of the Transvaal, Natal, the eastern Cape and Swaziland.

Cultivation and care Plant in a large hole (1 m²) in good, compost-rich garden soil. Mix a jam tin (500 g) of superphosphate with the bottom soil in the hole. Select an open position in full sun. Water well for at least 2 years but less afterwards. It can endure droughts and is extremely resistant to the scorching effect of salt-laden winds close to the sea. It will grow in clay and sandy soils if enriched with ample organic material. However, growth tempo is quite slow. This is nevertheless an excellent tree for home gardens, parks and streets.



Kigelia africana

Kigelia africana

Common name Sausage tree;

Worsboom

Family Bignoniaceae (Bigonia family)

10 x 10 m 🌞🌞🌞🌞🌞

Distinctive characteristics A beautiful tree for warm regions with magnificent, crinkled, large, dark red flowers, followed by long, cylindrical fruits resembling thick sausages.

Description A tree seen by every visitor to the Kruger National Park, it is native to the warm regions of the eastern and northern Transvaal, but is also planted in many other areas of South Africa. This lovely tree has a wide, round crown of spreading branches and dark green, compound leaves consisting of 3-5 pairs of leaflets and 1 terminal leaflet, with the leaves approximately 300 mm long. The large, showy flowers are borne in open,

axillary, drooping sprays in early summer. Each flower is pipe- or cup-shaped and dark red inside, but reddish brown with yellowish-green veins outside. The flowers have a rather unpleasant smell and produce plenty of nectar. The hard, greyish-brown fruits have an unusual sausage shape, measure up to 500 mm long and 100 mm in diameter, and weigh up to 4 kg. The fruits, which do not burst open, contain a fibrous pulp embedded with many seeds.

Cultivation and care This species develops into a large tree and requires a big hole (1 m²) with good soil, old kraal manure and plenty of water initially. Plant it in full sun as an isolated specimen tree. It is, unfortunately, only suitable for a large garden in warm areas where heavy frost seldom occurs.

Propagation Mainly from seed. In favourable conditions, the tree grows quite quickly.



Harpephyllum caffrum



Nuxia floribunda

Nuxia floribunda

Common name Forest elder; Vlier

Family Loganiaceae

8 x 4 m 🌞 🌿 🌳 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A decorative, evergreen tree with beautiful creamy-white flower clusters in autumn and winter

Olea europaea subsp. *africana*

Description This species grows wild in the coastal forests of the south-eastern Cape, through the eastern Cape, Transkei and Natal; in Swaziland, the eastern Transvaal and up to the northern and north-western Transvaal. It grows 3-10 m high and the leaves appear in whorls of 3. The glossy green leaves are simple and oblong, up to 150 x 50 mm. Large clusters of fragrant, creamy-white flowers, up to 300 mm long, give the tree a hazy, almost lacy beauty in autumn and winter. Unfortunately, this splendid tree is sensitive to frost.

Cultivation and care Plant it in a large hole (1 m²) in good, enriched soil. It grows quickly and likes plenty of sun and a frost-free winter. This attractive specimen tree deserves to be planted in greater numbers and could be used along the streets in our towns and cities.

Propagation As it does not grow easily from seed, cuttings are the only method. Water them generously

Olea europaea subsp. africana

Common name Wild olive; Olienhout

Family Oleaceae (Olive family)

8 x 6 m 🌞 🌿 🌳 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics This is a small, evergreen tree with a short,

crooked trunk and leaves that are glossy green on top but brownish green underneath. The wild olive is a hardy plant that will grow anywhere.

Description Although this is not a particularly ornamental tree, it is an excellent choice for gardens with difficult growing conditions – as its widespread distribution throughout the country proves. From a distance the tree often looks greyish green, and in Rustenburg, Swartruggens and the surrounding areas its foliage has a very beautiful, almost silvery sheen in bright sunshine. The leaves are simple, 70 x 15 mm, hairless and fairly hard. The flowers are insignificant and produce small olive fruits (12 mm long) that turn purplish black when ripe. The wild olive has a lovely, much sought-after timber that is, in my opinion, our most beautiful indigenous wood. It is heavy, hard, finely grained, yellowish brown with dark brown patches and has a smooth finish after proper treatment. It is also the tree emblem of the Orange Free State.

Cultivation and care As mentioned, this tree occurs throughout the country. It grows slowly unless it is planted in a large hole (1 m²) with good, enriched soil and given sufficient water.

Propagation It grows so easily from seed that the wild olive can be considered self-seeding. Give some of the plants to your neighbours.



Podocarpus henkelii

Common name Henkel's yellowwood, Henkelse geelhout

Family Podocarpaceae (Yellowwood family)

10 x 4 m 🌱 🌿 🌳 🌴 🌵 🌶 🌷

Distinctive characteristics An excellent yellowwood species for the garden with characteristic narrow, drooping, dark green leaves. It grows wild, particularly in Natal.

Description This evergreen yellowwood tree is undoubtedly one of our loveliest indigenous specimen trees. It grows high and wide in nature, but is much lower and not as wide when cultivated in gardens. It also grows slower in gardens, but has nevertheless gained popularity as garden subjects. The species can be

distinguished by its ornamental, drooping, dark green leaves giving the tree a very ornamental appearance. For home gardens, only Henkel's yellowwood is recommended; other species are more suitable for municipal parks and gardens.

Cultivation and care As yellowwood is a fairly slow grower, plant it in a large hole (at least 1 m³) in good, well-drained soil enriched with compost, and in full sun. It must receive sufficient water regularly. We should follow the Far Eastern custom of growing yellowwood species as pot plants – it is really amazing to see the yellowwood trees in their large containers on the pavements of Hong Kong's streets. Although they do look dwarfed when contained like this, they are still very striking.

Propagation It propagates mainly from seed.

P. falcatus

Common name Common yellowwood, Gewone geelhout

15 x 6 m 🌱 🌿 🌳 🌴 🌵 🌶 🌷

Distinctive characteristics Leaves arranged spirally on the branches with a definite turn at the base. Young leaves can be slightly sickle-shaped.

Description A high-growing, evergreen and upright gymnosperm, the stem becoming massive in a forest, like the well-known yellowwood in the Knysna forest. Separate male and female trees.

Cultivation and care Plant in a big hole in good soil, although it will also thrive in clayey and sandy soils. It is sensitive to droughts, but tolerates light frost and can even be grown close to the sea. Plant it in a sunny spot in the garden.



Podocarpus henkelii



P. falcatus





P. latifolius

P. latifolius

Common name Real yellowwood.

Opregte geelhout

12 x 6 m      

Distinctive characteristics Leaves wider and longer than those of *P. falcatus*. In fully-grown trees, the leaves are grouped close to the tips of the branches.







Description In my opinion the most beautiful yellowwood and well suited to a medium to big garden. It has the widest distribution of all species.

Cultivation and care As for *P. falcatus*. This tree is an excellent choice for house gardens, parks and streets.

Rauvolfia caffra

Common name Quinine tree; Kinaboom

Family Apocynaceae (Num-num family)

12 x 10 m      

Distinctive characteristics A medium-sized, deciduous to evergreen tree with a bare trunk and beautiful lanceolate leaves in whorls of 5.

Description Only 1 species occurs in South Africa – it grows wild in the eastern Cape, Transkei, Natal and the Transvaal Lowveld. The beauty of this tree lies in its attractive form, wide, round crown and branches with their slightly drooping foliage. The leaves are a glossy dark green, hairless, and often up to 200 mm long. Inconspicuous sweet-scented flowers appear in early summer, followed by marble-sized fruits. These are glossy green with white dots which eventually turn black. It is a lovely garden tree and should be planted more.

Cultivation and care The quinine tree grows relatively fast and looks best as a specimen tree on a large lawn. Plant it in a hole (1 m²) with good garden soil, and give it plenty of compost and water.

Propagation Germinates very easily from seed and transplants well.



Rauvolfia caffra

Rhus pendulina (= *R. viminalis*)

Common name White karree; Witkaree

Family Anacardiaceae (Mango family)

5 x 4 m      

Distinctive characteristics A fast-growing tree, willow-like in habit, and with attractive fresh green leaves. It is probably one of the most beautiful and useful karree species.

Description Most of our indigenous karree species are hardy, evergreen plants that can be cultivated widely. The leaves are trifoliate and resemble a fowl's footprint. The 3 leaves are more or less lanceolate and almost equal in size (the middle leaf being the longest when they do differ), and tapered at the tip and the base. Profusely branched, it has a lovely form and is a very good specimen as well as shade tree. The sexes are separate, and can only be differentiated when the small, inconspicuous flowers appear in summer. The fruits, somewhat resembling miniature mangoes, are devoured by birds.

Cultivation and care The karree is a fine tree for the drier areas where very cold winters and long droughts are experienced. It thrives in mild and coastal areas and has no special requirements there. Good soil, compost and regular watering will ensure that you have a lovely shade tree within 3-4 years, especially if you choose *Rhus pendulina*.

Propagation It grows from seed and cuttings, but *R. pendulina* will grow by simply planting a branch.



Rhus pendulina (= *R. viminalis*)



R. lancea

R. lancea

Common name Karree: Gewone karee
6 x 6 m      

Distinctive characteristics A low-growing, spreading tree with almost black stems and branches. Leaves are characteristically arranged in groups of 3. Leaflets are sessile, up to 120 mm long and slender.

Description The karree normally branches close to the ground. The bole is gnarled with a rough bark, split and very dark in colour. Branches are crooked. The crown is rather thin and spreading, with branch tips usually hanging. Leaflets are long, slender and arranged in groups of 3. The flowers are small, yellowish and appear in late summer. They are grouped in fine clusters at the branch tips. The fruit is small, kidney-shaped, yellowish brown and eaten by birds. The male and female trees are separate. The karree has a wide distribution, particularly in dry, cool areas of southern Africa.

Cultivation and care A good evergreen tree for dry parts where winters are cold. It can endure droughts and severe frost. It will also grow well in alkaline soils. If you plant it in a big hole in compost-rich soil and give it plenty of water, it will grow quite fast.



R. lancea (bark)



Schotia brachypetala

Schotia brachypetala

Common name Weeping boer-bean; Huilboerboon

Family Fabaceae (Legume family)

Subfamily Caesalpinioideae (Bauhinia family)

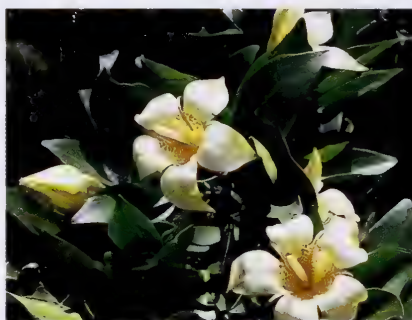
12 x 8 m      

Distinctive characteristics A deciduous tree with an attractive form and clusters of showy, crimson flowers in late spring.

Description It occurs relatively widely in Transkei, Natal and the Transvaal. It is a medium-sized tree with a rough bark and pinnately compound leaves (4 pairs of leaflets) up to 180 mm long. The glossy green leaflets are about 60 x 40 mm, elliptic to oblong. The flowers are extremely showy and have a waxy sheen. It is in fact the crimson sepals that are so superb because the flowers lack petals. Even the filaments are red. The flowers produce a great deal of nectar, thus attracting sunbirds and hundreds of bees. The nectar in fact drips from the flowers and this led to the tree's common name.

Cultivation and care Grow it in good, deep garden soil enriched with compost, and water regularly to ensure that the tree grows fairly quickly. It tolerates light to heavy frost. Plant it as a specimen tree.

Propagation Many seeds are formed – plant them in early spring.



Rothmannia capensis

Rothmannia capensis

Common name Common rothmannia; Wildekattjeping

Family Rubiaceae (Coffee family)

5 x 3 m      

Distinctive characteristics An attractive, fairly small tree with glossy green leaves and beautiful cream to yellow, bell-shaped flowers with reddish-brown throat markings.

Description Only this species is cultivated. It has a lovely form and is widespread from the southern Cape up along the coast to northern Zululand, and the eastern, southern and parts of western Transvaal. Grouped at the tips of the branches, the leaves are elliptic, approximately 100 x 40 mm, leathery, glossy green on top but lighter green underneath, and hairless. Four small swellings appear in the axils of the midrib and some lateral veins on both leaf surfaces. The leaf margins are entire and slightly wavy, but it is the sweet-scented flowers that are most striking (see above). The flowers are succeeded by round fruits, 60-70 mm in diameter.

Cultivation and care If planted in a large hole with good, well-drained soil and watered regularly, the common rothmannia will develop relatively quickly. It is frost sensitive and is in fact only suited to tropical and subtropical areas.

Propagation Its seed germinates easily. Keep the seedlings damp.



S. brachypetala



Sideroxylon inerme subsp. *inerme*

Sideroxylon inerme subsp. *inerme*

Common name White milkwood.
Witmelkhout

Family Sapotaceae (Milkwood family)
8 x 4 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿 🍷

Distinctive characteristics A smallish, dark, evergreen tree, one of the most beautiful shade trees.

Description This is the only species of this genus that occurs in South Africa – the 'post office tree' in Mossel Bay being a famous example. White milkwood occurs along the coast from the south-western Cape to northern Zululand. The leaves are leathery, a glossy dark green on top but lighter green underneath, and broadly ovate with rounded tips and bases. A milky latex appears wherever leaves or branches are broken or cut. The flowers are small, 3-4 mm long, greenish white, insignificant and have an unpleasant smell. This superb foliage tree is a good choice for the garden.

Cultivation and care Any good, well-drained soil with compost will provide for the white milkwood's needs. Plant it as a specimen tree in full sun and water regularly. The tree tolerates considerable wind and, although it is slow growing initially, develops rather fast once it has taken root.

Propagation Stem cuttings are the quickest way to propagate the lovely white milkwood.

Spathodea campanulata

Common name African flame tree.

Afrika-vlamboom

Family Bignoniaceae

10 x 5 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿 🍷

Distinctive characteristics A most spectacular tree bearing large clusters of big



Spathodea campanulata

orange-red flowers at the branch tips. Its round, dark green crown is attractive. This is one of the most beautiful trees indigenous to southern Africa.

Description The bole is usually upright and straight, covered with brownish-grey scaly bark. Leaves are opposite, large and compound with 9-19 leaflets which are oval-shaped, dark green and shiny on top. Trees may lose their leaves in cold regions. Spectacular flowers appear from late summer to early winter. Flower buds are big, brownish green, curved and clustered together like a bunch of small bananas. The buds are filled with a fluid. Flowers are chalice-shaped, upright and bright orange to coral-red with gold-edged margins.

Cultivation and care Established trees will tolerate sharp frost and endure long droughts. Plant it in a big hole (1 m²) in good garden soil and plenty of compost. Give plenty of water initially and less afterwards. It will grow quite fast. The flame tree is not suitable for areas with little rain and very cold winters. Trees in plastic bags are recommended for planting.

Strelitzia nicolai

Common name Natal wild banana.

Natalse wildepiesang

Family Strelitziaceae

6 x 2 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌳 🌿 🍷

Distinctive characteristics A luscious subtropical, decorative plant which strongly resembles a banana tree, but having white and blue flowers characteristic of a strelitzia.

Description The Natal wild banana grows in great numbers all along the coastline of Natal, Transkei and in parts of the eastern Cape. It easily reaches a height of 5-6 m in a garden and is very

decorative, lending a tropical atmosphere to the garden. Typical strelitzia-like leaves on firm leaf stalks develop from a thick, non-woody stem. Nearer to the top of the stem inflorescences develop, each consisting of a large purple-black sheath from which the flowers arise one after the other. The sepals are white and the petals light blue. Flowers are rich in nectar and appear all year round. The Natal wild banana is in fact shrub-like in growth form but reaches tree height easily. It grows from thick rhizomes which become woody later on.

Cultivation and care The Natal wild banana will grow excellently and quickly in good soil, provided it is watered well and planted in a sheltered position, especially on the Highveld. It is hardy to light frost. Seed germinate well but seedlings will reach maturity only after 7-8 years. Division of the mother plant is advised. Do this in early spring or buy your own specimen from a local nursery. Plants in plastic bags are readily available.



Strelitzia nicolai

Trichilia emetica

Common name Red ash or Natal mahogany; Rooi-essenhout or Natsale mahonie

Family Meliaceae

10 x 8 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌿 🌳 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A very lovely dark green shade tree with big compound leaves with shiny upper surfaces. Ripe fruit is similar to small figs and contains black seeds, each with a scarlet integument.

Description Red ash is fairly common in warm, humid parts of Natal, Zululand and the eastern and northern Transvaal. It prefers open localities, often close to water, but not dense, evergreen forest. It is a luscious, medium-sized, evergreen tree with an attractive, rounded, wide-spreading crown – dark green and an excellent shade tree. The bark is brownish grey. Leaves are compound, each consisting of 7-11 leaflets, elliptical to elongated and with rounded tips. The creamy-white flowers are small, bell-shaped, fragrant and appear in long clusters in summer. Fruits are small, fig-like and when ripe contain 3-6 black seeds, each with a scarlet integument.

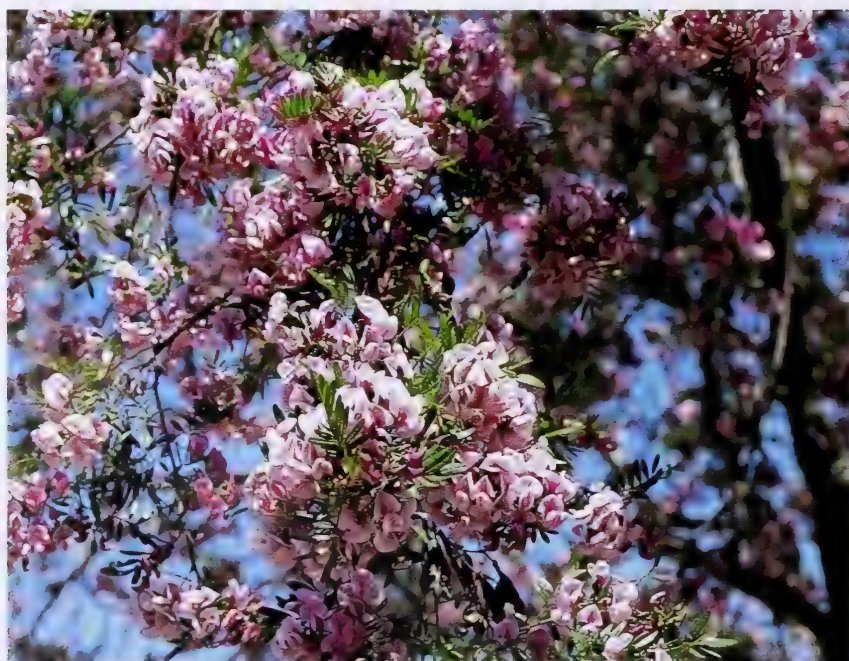
Cultivation and care Plant the tree in a big hole (1 m³) in compost-rich garden soil. Give plenty of water at the beginning, less afterwards. It can be planted fairly close to the sea. Red ash prefers full sun but will enjoy some shade on the top. It grows rather fast. Cut it open from the bottom when young. Trees in plastic bags are available.



Trichilia emetica



Virgilia divaricata



V. oroboides

Virgilia divaricata

Common name Pink blossom tree; Pienkkeurbroom

Family Fabaceae (Legume family)

Subfamily Faboideae (Pea family)

6 x 4 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌿 🌳 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A fast-growing evergreen tree with dark green, pinnately compound leaves and masses of purplish-pink pea-flowers in spring. It occurs wild from the southern to the eastern Cape.

Description The evergreen pink blossom tree is exceptionally decorative and grows very rapidly. Flowers are borne in such profusion in spring that the foliage can scarcely be seen. The stems and branches are brownish grey and the tree has a rather spreading habit. Unfortunately the branches are rather brittle and break easily in strong winds. It is short-lived and will have to be replaced after a few years, but remember that it is a very fast-growing species and is therefore strongly recommended for a young garden. This attractive tree grows well on the Highveld.

Cultivation and care The pink blossom tree has no special growing requirements, but it is nevertheless important to water it regularly. Once it is well-established, it will survive fairly long droughts. Plant it as a specimen tree on a large lawn.

Propagation It produces numerous seeds that germinate relatively easily and transplant successfully too. It is available from nurseries throughout the country.

V. oroboides

Common name Keurboom

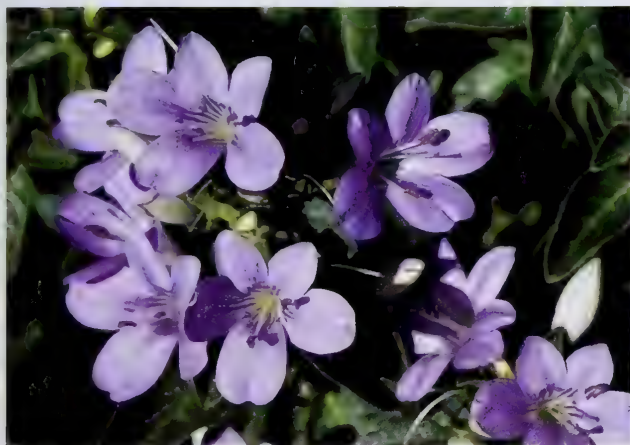
6 x 4 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌿 🌳 🌱

Description Very similar to the previous species, but the small flowers are light pink. It is very common in the Knysna area.

2. SHRUBS

Shrubs are the backbone of the garden, providing flowers, attractive foliage and interesting forms all year round. Although they require less work than other plants, they nevertheless need constant care – they must be pruned, fed, watered and even tied to stakes. Plant shrubs like trees although the holes can be smaller – 300 mm² and 300 mm deep (see p. 8). Feed flowering shrubs with 2 handfuls of 3:1:5 (26) SR fertilizer sprinkled around the shrub every 4 months. Use 3:2:1 (28) SR fertilizer at 2 handfuls per foliage shrub every 4 months. Put down a mulch of compost, 30-40 mm thick, replacing it from time to time.

Do not cultivate or disturb the soil around the stem – roots may be damaged. Water regularly, especially during the dry seasons.



Barleria obtusa

Barleria obtusa

Common name Bush violet; Bosviooltjie

Family Acanthaceae

1 x 1 m ☀️ ☕️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A small, ever-green shrub that bears masses of violet-blue flowers, 30 mm in diameter. This is the species of *Barleria* found most commonly in South African gardens.

Description This small herbaceous shrub is about 1 m high with an almost equal spread. The leaves are more or less ovate and covered with a dense mass of fine hairs, making them slightly coarse to the touch. It gives a fine display throughout the year, but is at its most decorative when the large numbers of violet-blue flowers appear in autumn. The flowers are slightly tubular and consist of 5 unequal petals spreading out like a star. The stamens and style are long and protruding. This flowering shrub contrasts well with the autumnal shades of the leaves and berries in the garden.

Cultivation and care The bush violet requires good, friable soil and grows well in full sun or partly-shaded areas. Plant it together with a yellow flowering shrub, for example *Euryops pectinatus*, for an excellent display. It is important to prune and shape the shrub after flowering as



Bauhinia galpinii

the flowers are borne on new growth in particular. This will also help to control it as it does tend to grow too wildly. It grows easily from seed and cuttings.

Propagation Bush violets seed themselves – be on the lookout for small plants all around the garden after the first flowering. Plant these seedlings immediately in the required spot(s) in the garden.

Bauhinia galpinii

Common name Pride of De Kaap or Vlam-van-die-vlakte; Trots-van-De Kaap

Family Fabaceae (Legume family)

Subfamily Caesalpinioideae (Bauhinia family)

2 x 3 m ☀️ ☕️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A woody shrub that, in most areas of the country, sheds its leaves in winter. The leaves are characteristically two-lobed and the star-shaped flowers consist of 5 spoon-shaped, brick-red petals.

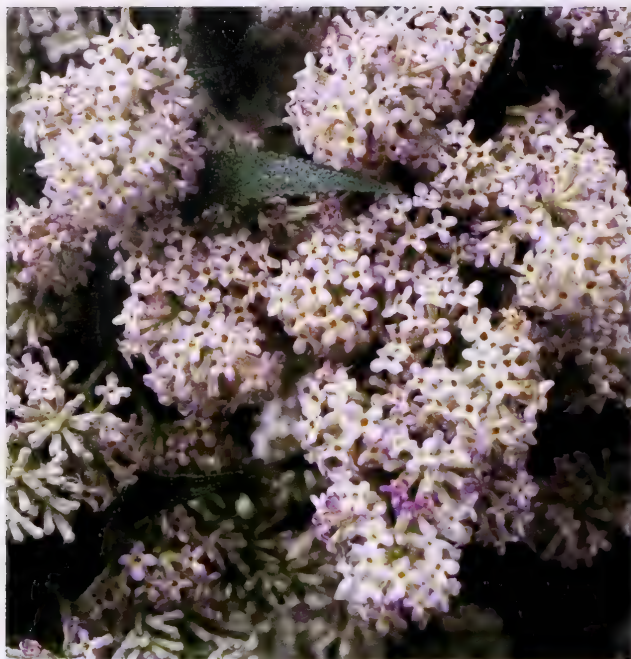
Description A magnificent flowering shrub which can be grown successfully in many parts of South Africa. It is a strong, woody plant that shows up well as an isolated specimen or planted as a hedge. Unfortunately it is usually decidu-

ous, but the new foliage soon appears in spring. The leaves are two-lobed, almost resembling butterfly wings. When the brick-red flowers appear in dense clusters in summer and autumn, this shrub is an exquisite sight – true to one of its common Afrikaans names, vlam-van-die-vlakte, it is eye-catching even from a distance and forms the central point in any garden. *Bauhinia galpinii* is probably unsurpassed in beauty by any indigenous shrub.

Cultivation and care Plant it in a large hole (1 m²) filled with good topsoil and ample compost or old kraal manure. Water adequately until it is established – good and regular rains will be sufficient thereafter. It will even survive long periods of drought. This plant tends to spread too widely – prune it after flowering to keep it under control.

Although this shrub prefers warmer climates with plenty of sun, it grows extremely well in Johannesburg. It is a fast grower and will give you much enjoyment in the garden.

Propagation Large, flat pods with single seeds appear at the end of the flowering season, but as seed germination is often difficult and unsuccessful, it is better to buy a plant. It can also be grown from cuttings – plant them in late winter or early spring in well-drained soil



Buddleja salviifolia



Burchellia bubalina

Buddleja salviifolia

Common name Sagewood or Butterfly bush; Wildesalie

Family Loganiaceae

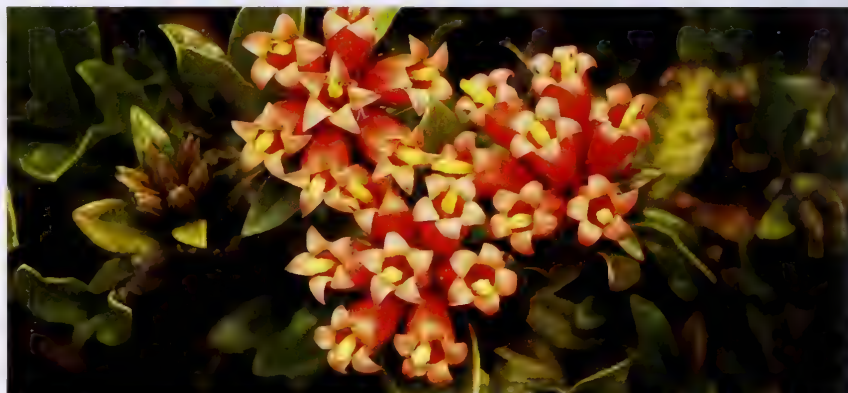
5 x 4 m ☀️ 🌿 🌱 🌳 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A shrub or small tree with drooping branches, bearing very small, fragrant lilac flowers in dense panicles, in early spring

Description This strong-growing, ever-green shrub can easily reach 5 m in a garden. It grows wild in many areas of the country, especially in Natal and the Transvaal. The leaves are rough, dark green on top and silvery-white underneath, adding to its attractiveness. At the end of winter and in early spring, panicles bearing honey-scented lilac flowers appear in profusion – their lovely fragrance is most distinct after sunset. Each tubular flower has a yellow centre. This tree is also known as butterfly bush, referring to the attraction the flowers have for butterflies. It is named after Reverend Adam Buddle, a well-known English botanist.

Cultivation and care Plant it anywhere in the garden in deep soil and full sun. It is fast growing and strongly recommended for a new garden as it will be half-grown after only a few months. It will even do well in difficult growing conditions. Prune it regularly to keep it tidy – when the lower branches are removed, plant some bulbs around it, for example *Crocasmia* spp. and the terrestrial orchid, *Eulophia speciosa*.

Propagation Mainly from cuttings.



B. bubalina

Burchellia bubalina

Common name Wild pomegranate;

Wildegranaat

Family Rubiaceae (Coffee family)

2,5 x 1 m ☀️ 🌿 🌱 🌳 🌿

Distinctive characteristics An ever-green tree/shrub with glossy leaves and showy clusters (whorls) of orange to coral-red flowers in early summer

Description There is only 1 species in the genus, which commemorates Dr WJ Burchell, the nineteenth-century plant collector and author of the famous *Travels into the interior of southern Africa*. It is an excellent garden plant with a neat habit, its glossy foliage giving a beautiful display throughout the year. Its height is limited to 2,5-3 m in a garden. It grows slowly but starts flowering while it is still relatively small. Appearing in late

spring and remaining on the plant for quite a while, the umbel-like clusters of orange to coral-red flowers show up beautifully. Each flower is only about 30 mm long, tubular and terminates in 5 spreading petal segments in front. The golden-yellow anthers protrude slightly from the tube. This attractive tree deserves a place in every garden in South Africa.

Cultivation and care This plant will grow best in coastal gardens and areas where the air is not too dry and frost not too severe. It thrives on plenty of rain. Plant it in a fairly large hole, filled with good garden soil and ample compost. Place it in a spot where it can get some shade from bigger plants, especially during the hottest times of the day. In colder areas, plant it in corners where it will be protected from cold winds. Pruning is unnecessary.

Propagation Easily from seed or cuttings



Carissa macrocarpa

Carissa macrocarpa

Common name Amatungulu or Natal plum; Grootnoem-noem

Family Apocynaceae (Num-num family)
3 x 2 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics A thorny shrub with glossy, dark green leaves, snow-white, star-shaped flowers and attractive, edible, red, prune-like fruit.

Description There are quite a few species of these lovely, evergreen shrubs with their glossy leaves and fragrant, white, jasmine-like flowers. The decorative, ovate fruits are edible and range from scarlet to crimson in colour. They make beautiful ornamental

specimen shrubs and are very suitable as impenetrable hedges as they bear sharp, stout thorns. The Amatungulu or Natal plum can grow up to 3 m high, and its prune-like fruits are delicious, either fresh or made into a jam.

Cultivation and care This genus prefers a moist, frost-free climate and its species grow well in nearly all soil types. It is encouraging to see that many of them are being planted in parks and gardens. Plant them in full sun or among other shrubs and trees – in the shade they tend to grow much higher. For an impenetrable hedge, plant them about 1 m apart. Highly recommended as a replacement for an unsightly concrete wall.

Propagation From seed and cuttings.

Coleonema pulchellum

Common name Confetti bush; Confettibos

Family Rutaceae (Buchu family)
1,5 x 1,5 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics An upright shrub with masses of pink, confetti-like flowers in early spring

Description These evergreen shrubs are appealing garden plants that remain beautiful throughout the year. The leaves are fine, heath-like and aromatic, especially when crushed. In early spring masses of small, star-shaped flowers that are often white, but dark pink in *Coleonema pulchellum*, cover the whole plant, and create a wonderful display. Each flower consists of 5 ovate petals with a conspicuous central vein. They are already very popular as garden shrubs.

Cultivation and care These undemanding plants require no special care. Plant them in well-drained soil and add a little compost or old kraal manure. Water generously from autumn to the end of winter. They flourish at the coast and also do well elsewhere as they can withstand mild frost. They are wind resistant and need full sun to flower properly. Plant a specimen in a rockery where it can be shaped to keep it small.

Propagation Easily grown from seed and cuttings. Small plants are available

C. pulchrum

Common name Confetti bush; Confettibos

1,5 x 1,5 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description Like *C. pulchellum* but with much smaller pink flowers.



Coleonema pulchellum



C. pulchrum



Crotonia capensis

Crotonia capensis

Common name Cape rattlepod or Cape laburnum; Kaapse klapperpeul

Family Fabaceae (Legume family)

Subfamily Faboideae (Pea family)

3 x 2 m 🌞 🌿 🌱 🌳 🌴

Distinctive characteristics An evergreen shrub with trifoliate leaves and drooping, spike-like clusters of golden-yellow flowers that resemble birds.

Description Herbaceous and semi-woody shrubs make up this large genus of which *Crotonia capensis* is a particularly beautiful species. The generic name comes from the Greek *krotalon*, castanet, and refers to the way in which the seeds rattle in the pods. It is an evergreen shrub, 2,5-3 m high, with a dense foliage of dark green, trifoliate leaves. In spring and summer the golden-yellow pea-flowers appear in clusters of attractive drooping spikes, which resemble birds hanging to the stems with their beaks. The sweet-scented flowers are about 25 mm in diameter.

Cultivation and care This shrub needs full sun, well-drained, enriched garden soil and a reasonable amount of water from autumn to spring. It is fast growing and wind resistant, but does not tolerate heavy frost. The plant is strongly recommended for a new garden because it grows so quickly and also produces a lovely display.

Propagation Seeds germinate readily – sow them in spring. Propagation from young cuttings planted in a sandy soil mixture is also very successful. Never allow the cuttings to get too dry – rather place them under a glass cover.

Dombeya burgessiae

Common name Pink wild pear;

Persdrolpeer

Family Sterculiaceae (Sterculia family)

4 x 4 m 🌞 🌿 🌱 🌳 🌴

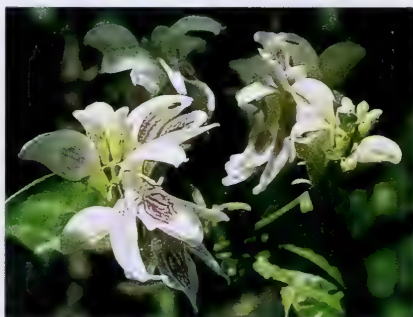
Distinctive characteristics A lovely shrub/tree with large, round leaves and clusters of white to light pink flowers in autumn.

Description Quite a few *Dombeya* species are already popular ornamentals in gardens and parks. One of the most beautiful, particularly as regards its flowers, is *Dombeya burgessiae*. The trunk and branches are smooth and greyish green, the leaves are heart-shaped and large (250 mm in diameter) and are sometimes torn by the wind. The flowers are borne in drooping, terminal clusters and are 25 mm in diameter – the most attractive are creamy-white with dark red centres, the stamens and pistil also being creamy-white. It is an excellent shade and specimen tree.

Cultivation and care Plant it in a large hole (1 m²) in good garden soil with plenty of compost or old kraal manure. Water well initially. It grows surprisingly quickly and should flower during its second year. It prefers full sun and, although it can withstand wind, rather plant it where it will be slightly sheltered. It grows well in many areas of the country but on the Highveld it will do best in a protected, north-facing spot. It can be pruned heavily during winter each year.



Dombeya burgessiae



Duvernoia adhatodoides



Duvernoia adhatodoides

Duvernoia adhatodoides

Common name Pistol bush; Pistolbos

Family Acanthaceae

3 x 2 m 🌞 🌿 🌱 🌳 🌴

Distinctive characteristics An evergreen shrub up to 3 m, bearing beautiful white flowers, marked with purple, in summer.

Description This splendid shrub or small tree occurs on the margins of coastal forests in Transkei and Natal, as well as in the eastern Transvaal. It grows approximately 3 m high. The leaves of this evergreen plant are fairly ovate and about 150 mm long. Showy, slightly aromatic, white to mauve flowers with beautiful purple markings, particularly in the throat, are densely packed in racemes. The club-shaped seed pods burst open with a loud crack, shooting the seeds away from the plant. This led to the common name, pistol bush.






Cultivation and care It grows very easily in any compost-enriched soil, in semi-shade and even in full sun. A fast grower, it needs plenty of water, especially in summer. Plant it among other shrubs or as a hedge. This plant is highly recommended for gardens in frost-free areas.

Propagation From cuttings planted in summer. Plants are available at leading nurseries.

Erica bauera

Common name Albertinia or Bridal heath; Albertinia- or bruidsheide

Family Ericaceae

2 x 1 m     

Distinctive characteristics The leaves are characteristically small, nearly needle-like. Flowers are tubular, pale pink, hanging in groups from the stem tips. This species is already common in home gardens






Description More than 600 heath species occur in the south-western Cape, and approximately 20 more grow in the eastern Cape, Natal and the eastern Transvaal, where they are mostly found on the escarpment. These ever-green shrubs have needle-shaped leaves that are usually densely packed on the branches. The flowers come in a great variety of colours, shapes and sizes. Some species grow fairly easily and these are the ones usually available from nurseries – many of the others are difficult to cultivate in gardens and will in fact only thrive in their natural habitat. Ericas need full sun and are ideal rockery plants

Cultivation and care They prefer light, sandy, acid soil, rich in compost and with good drainage. It is therefore necessary to prepare the planting holes thoroughly – haphazard preparation will result in unsuccessful cultivation of these beautiful shrubs. It is important to test the pH (acidity) of the soil – for ericas it must be approximately pH5. It is vital to water generously and regularly, especially in the dry interior. Plant them anywhere in the garden but remember that ericas have very particular needs – which is possibly why they are not cultivated in greater numbers.

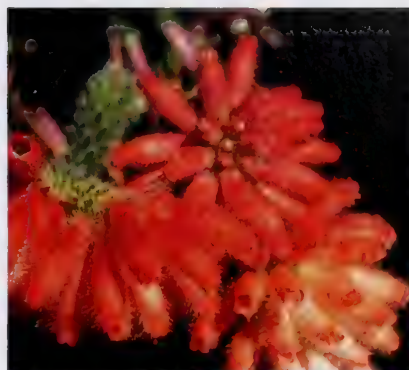
Propagation From seed and cuttings. Fortunately quite a number of popular species are readily available from nurseries, particularly in the south-western Cape – you need therefore not be too worried about propagation.

E. cerinthoides

Common name Red hairy heath; Rooi-haartjieheide

1 x 0,5 m     

Description This heath species has the widest distribution – it is found in the south-western Cape, Natal, Lesotho, Swaziland, the Transvaal and Zimbabwe. Its growth form varies from a bushy to a lanky shrub. Flowers hang in groups, are pink to crimson and covered with fine hairs. They appear from late winter to spring








E. cerinthoides



E. grandiflora

E. grandiflora

Common name Large orange heath; Grootoranjeheide

1 x 1 m     






Description It occurs naturally on the mountain slopes near Stellenbosch, Paarl, Ceres and up to Robertson and Ladysmith. It is a vigorous grower, with its leaves needle-like and the attractive orange-coloured flowers long, tubular and sticky. This shrub flowers profusely and will grow in a dry, hot climate.



E. massonii

E. massonii

Common name Houhoek heath; Houhoekheide

500 x 500 mm     

Description Found on the Hottentots Holland mountains. This is a beautiful heath when in full flower. Flowers are glossy, sticky and borne in a whorl, like the spokes of a wheel. They are crimson in colour with green tips, and appear in summer.

Erica bauera



E. regia

Common name Royal or Elim heath;
Belletjie or Elimheide
750 x 500 mm 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description This very lovely species grows wild near Elim in the Bredasdorp district and is already seen in many gardens. The beautiful flowers are shiny, white to red at the tips, about 18 mm long and hang down in whorls from the stem tips. Flowers from late winter to spring



E. regia

E. vestita

Common name Wide-mouthed heath;
Trilheide
1 x 0,5 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description Grows wild on the mountains near Caledon and Worcester. Leaves are soft, needle-shaped, densely covering the stems. Flowers are tubular with a wide mouth and arranged in groups near the stem tips. Each flower is more or less 20-30 mm long, red, white or pink. It grows successfully on the Highveld.



E. vestita

Euryops virgineus

Common name River resin bush;
Heuningmargriet
Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
1,5 x 1,5 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics A beautiful shrub with a fine, dense foliage and masses of golden-yellow, honey-scented flowers in spring.

Description *Euryops* is a well-known genus of fast-growing, evergreen shrubs with yellow daisy flowers that, in favourable conditions, often cover the bush. The plants grow fairly quickly and get a bit untidy as a result, but can be pruned back very successfully, particularly after the flowering season. Their leaves are sometimes greyish green and show up very well – the leaves of many species are deeply lobed or incised.

Cultivation and care They are well suited to any soil type and can tolerate droughts, wind and frost. Good drainage and full sun, even if it is only in the morning, are important factors and must be taken into account. *Euryops pectinatus* and *E. virgineus* will show up well among other shrubs and trees.

Propagation They grow successfully from seed but for faster results take cuttings and look after them carefully. Fortunately, the most beautiful species are available from leading nurseries.

E. pectinatus

Common name Resin bush; Harpuijsbos
1 x 1 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description A neat shrub with silver-grey foliage and bright yellow daisy flowers in spring. It flowers almost right through the year, but less profusely than in spring. Resin bush is a very lovely shrub and fortunately already very popular as a garden specimen.



E. pectinatus




Euryops virgineus

Gardenia thunbergia

Common name White gardenia

Witkatjiepiering

Family Rubiaceae (Coffee family)

5 x 3 m     

Distinctive characteristics An evergreen shrub with glossy leaves and snow-white, perfumed, saucer-shaped flowers in summer

Description The heavily fragrant flowers are the hallmark of this genus. They are very attractive, consisting of a long, slender flower tube that opens up like a trumpet, displaying snow-white, wavy, slightly curled segments. Unfortunately the flowers only last a day before they turn brown and wither. This lovely evergreen shrub/tree with its tough, glossy leaves does best in rich, slightly acid soil and needs plenty of water. The bark is

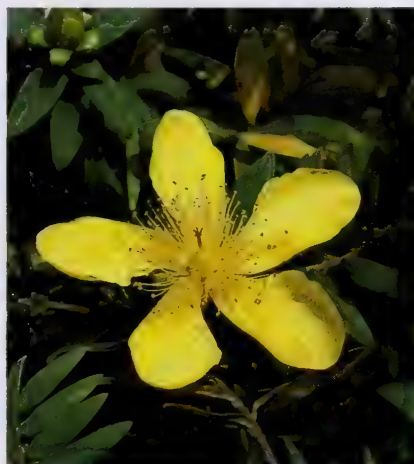
often greyish with darker patches. This multiple-branched shrub is slow growing, although it does bear flowers at an early stage. The genus is named after Dr Alexander Garden, an eighteenth-century American botanist

Cultivation and care Plant the white gardenia in a large hole (1 m²) with good soil, plenty of compost (especially rotten pine-needles or Port Jackson leaves for acidity) and good drainage. It prefers full sun and if you are lucky enough to have a marshy area or water garden, your gardenia will thrive and flower abundantly if planted close by. It is fairly resistant to frost and wind, although wind is, with very few exceptions, not advantageous to plants. To be truly indigenous, a garden should contain a white gardenia.

Propagation As it grows very slowly, cuttings are recommended. Gardenias are readily available from nurseries



Gardenia thunbergia



Hypericum revolutum








Grewia occidentalis

Grewia occidentalis

Common name Cross berry; Kruisbessie

Family Tiliaceae

6 x 4 m     

Distinctive characteristics A spreading evergreen shrub with starry mauve flowers and square-shaped fruits

Description This species is the only one in the genus grown fairly commonly in gardens. A sprawling shrub, it has light green, slightly rough, ovate to lanceolate leaves (70 x 40 mm). The purple to light red flowers, approximately 35 mm in diameter, consist of 10 perianth segments spreading star-like with a tassel of golden-yellow stamens in the centre. The flowers appear in summer in clusters of 2-4. The square fruits are cross-shaped, hence the common name

Cultivation and care Plant the cross berry in a large hole (1 m²) in good garden soil with plenty of compost, in semi-shade or full sun. Water generously during the hot summer months.

Propagation For quickest results, plant hardwood cuttings in early spring

Hypericum revolutum

Common name Curry bush; Kerriebos

Family Hypericaceae

3 x 3 m    

Distinctive characteristics The golden, spring flowers with their numerous long, wiry stamens are characteristic of this shrub.

Description This very popular evergreen shrub is seen in many gardens throughout the country. It grows approximately 3 m high, with its arching lateral branches bushing out to form a dense shrub. The leaves are dark green, tapering and smell like curry when bruised. The large, bright yellow flowers, 40 mm in diameter, appear in spring – with their 5 wide, spreading petals and a mass of long, yellow stamens they transform the tree into a beautiful sight. The flowers are loosely grouped at the tips of the branches. I strongly recommend this shrub, particularly for its dark green foliage and attractive golden-yellow flowers

Cultivation and care This is a tough, obliging plant that grows throughout South Africa. Although it tolerates any soil, better results will be obtained if you plant it in good, rich, well-drained soil and water it sufficiently. Hot sunshine is important, but the plant will grow in semi-shade. Plant it among other shrubs or as a specimen next to a garden path where passersby can rub the leaves to release the pleasant curry aroma

Propagation The best propagation method is from cuttings





Leucadendron tinctum

Common name Tolbos

Family Proteaceae (Protea family)

1 x 1 m

Distinctive characteristics A well-known species and a popular garden specimen. Grows wild from the Bredasdorp and Houhoek areas to the Swartberg mountains. Both male and female flowers are very beautiful. Cones enclosed by pink to red-coloured leaves. Female cone is dark red and the male cone is yellow.

Description *Leucadendron* is a genus of evergreen shrubs and trees occurring mainly in the south-western and eastern Cape. The cone-like flower heads resemble tops – hence the name of 'tolbos'. The plants are either male or female: the female flowers usually have large, cone-like flower heads, while those of the male are small and round. Many species have colourful involucral bracts surrounding the flower heads – colours range from sunshine yellow to deep, rich red, pink and silvery grey. In the garden, a tolbos adds a bright splash of colour to a shrub border or a rockery. They are willing garden plants and deserve greater attention from gardeners.

Cultivation and care This genus is a member of the protea family and should be treated as such in the garden: it needs acid soil with good drainage and favourable topsoil. I strongly recommend that you consult a specialist on this matter, or read modern publications on the cultivation of members of this family (see Bibliography, p. 93). A worthwhile species to plant, but remember that it requires special care and attention.

Propagation From seeds, cuttings, grafting or budding, but as it grows very easily and successfully from seed, use this for propagation purposes.



Leucadendron tinctum

L. comosum

Common name Yellow bush or Kraaltol;

Geelbos or Kraaltol

1,5 x 1,5 m

Description Grows wild on the mountains around Swellendam and on the Swartberg mountains. Flower heads are red and the involucral leaves are light green or yellow. Leaves of male plants are narrow, nearly needle-shaped, while those of the female plant are much wider.

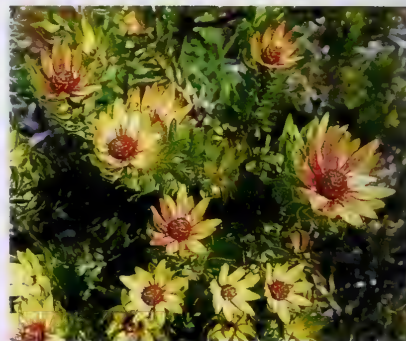


L. comosum

L. gandogerii

1,6 x 2 m

Description Grows abundantly on the Hermanus mountains. Leaves shiny, smooth and elliptic. From August the large leaves at the top become bright yellow involucral leaves with tints of red and orange. Colours stay for a long time.



L. gandogerii

L. sessile

1,5 x 1 m

Description Grows wild on the mountains around Ceres, Tulbagh and Worcester, as well as on the Hottentots-Holland range down to Hangklip. Involucral leaves are yellow, later turning red.



L. sessile

'Safari sunset' (L. laureolum x L. salignum)

2 x 1,5 m





Description A cultivar from New Zealand where it was discovered as a seedling in the sixties. Best-known cultivar in the protea family with long, deep red flower stalks from January to September.



'Safari sunset' (*L. laureolum* x *L. salignum*)

Leucospermum reflexum

Common name Rocket pincushion; Perdekop

Family Proteaceae (Protea family)
3 x 2 m    

Distinctive characteristics This pincushion can be identified by its exceptional inflorescences. As its styles mature, they bend downwards and eventually resemble a horse's mane – hence the Afrikaans common name.

Description This genus includes what are probably our loveliest evergreen flowering shrubs. Most species grow wild in the south-western Cape, their forms varying from large, erect plants to low-growing, spreading ones. They are very showy when in flower and the individual flowers are magnificent. The name pincushion is a reference to the knob-like styles and stigmas that grow upwards like pins studding a pincushion. The beauty of the flower, which is actually an inflorescence consisting of a collection of small flowers, lies in the styles and the curled, ribbon-like perianth segments. The leaves are attractive and show up well throughout the year.

Cultivation and care It is fairly adaptable and will grow in most areas of the country. Like all Proteaceae, it prefers well-drained soil and an airy, open, sunny position. Do not disturb the roots – a thick layer of straw or pine bark around the stem will control weeds and create good growing conditions for the plant. Older plants tolerate frost, but the younger ones should be protected in cold areas. Water with discretion, remembering that these plants are native to the winter rainfall areas and therefore need water in winter.

Propagation Easily and very successfully from seed. Pincushion species are available from nurseries.







Leucospermum reflexum

L. bolusii

1 x 1,5 m    





Description An attractive, rounded shrub with numerous small, fragrant, white flowers (inflorescences).

L. catherinae

Common name Wheel flower; Wiel-speldekussing
3 x 2 m    





Description Grows wild on the mountains at Clanwilliam and Ceres, and at Piketberg. Flowers very distinctive with long curved styles resembling a Catherine wheel.

L. conocarpodendron

Common name Tree pincushion; Kreupelhout
3 x 2 m    

Description A rounded dark green shrub with lovely bright yellow flowers. A tough plant and attractive when in full flower. It grows along the coastal mountain slopes in the south-western Cape.

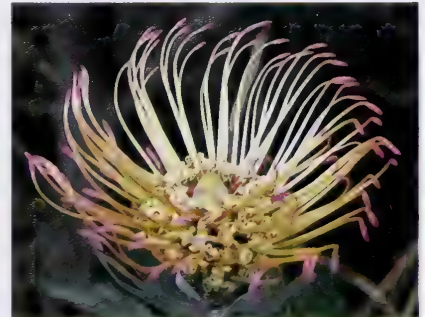
L. cordifolium

Common name Pincushion; Speldekussing
1,5 x 1 m    

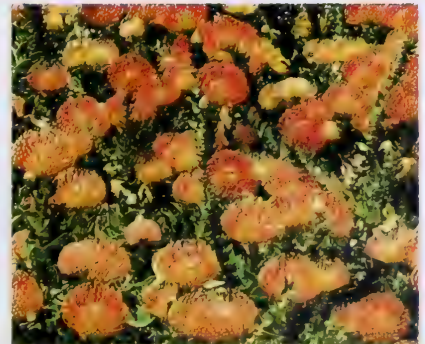
Description Best-known of all pincushions. Flowers ball-shaped, orange-red and sometimes yellow. A number of excellent cultivars are available.



L. bolusii



L. catherinae



L. cordifolium



L. conocarpodendron

L. mundii

1 x 1 m     

Description A broad-leaved, rounded shrub with orange-yellow flowers. Grows wild on the mountains from Swellendam to Riversdale

L. reflexum var. luteum

3 x 2 m     

Description As in *L. reflexum* but with yellow flowers.






L. tottum

1 x 1 m     

Description To my taste, this is one of the most beautiful of all pincushions. This rounded shrub with pink flowers grows wild on the Cedarberg mountains up to Worcester, from Piketberg to Paarl and at Caledon.

Mackaya bella

Common name Forest bell bush:
Blouklokkiesbos

Family Acanthaceae
3 x 2 m     

Distinctive characteristics A shade-loving shrub which bears mauve-pink flowers marked with purplish-brown lines in spring. Already a very popular plant.

Description This plant occurs in evergreen forests, often alongside streams in the coastal areas of Natal, through Swaziland, and up to the eastern and northern Transvaal. The dark green leaves are simple, opposite, elliptical and up to 140 x 35 mm. The flowers are attractive, delicately mauve-pink with purplish-brown markings and borne in terminal clusters. Each flower is tubular and consists of 5 spreading petals that are slightly bi-labiate. It is a lovely garden plant.

Cultivation and care It grows very well in semi-shade and will tolerate light frost. Plant it in good, deep soil and water well initially, but less thereafter although still regularly. Plant the forest bell bush among other shrubs – its beautiful flowers will in any case attract attention. It is suited to all areas of South Africa

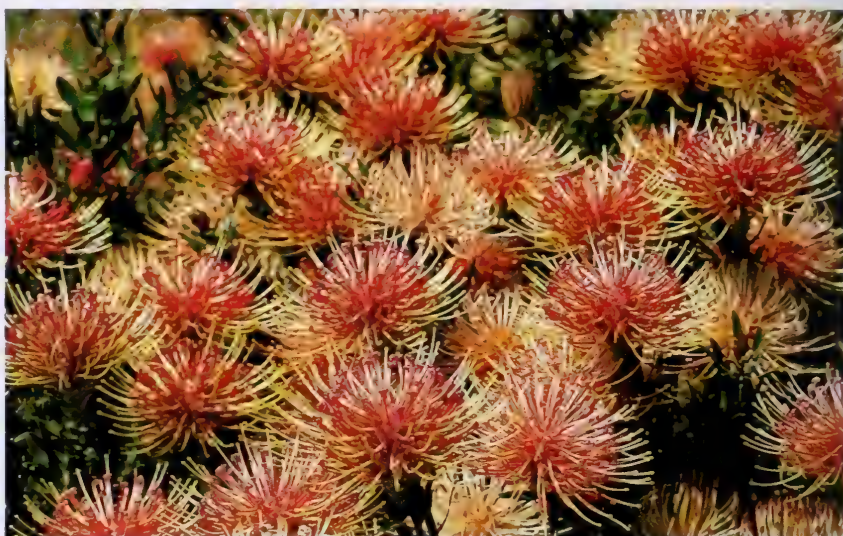
Propagation *Mackaya bella* grows easily from cuttings and thrives in protected positions. It is also available from many nurseries throughout the country



L. mundii



L. reflexum var. *luteum*



L. tottum



Mackaya bella



Melianthus major

Melianthus major

Common name Honey flower or Touch-me-not; Kruidjie-roer-my-nie

Family Melianthaceae

2,5 x 3 m ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️

Distinctive characteristics A large, bushy shrub with bamboo-like stems and large, bluish-green compound leaves.

Description This plant is grown for its luxuriant, ornamental, drooping leaves. They are up to 750 mm long, compound and the leaflets have deeply serrated margins. The leaves have a strong, unpleasant smell when bruised, hence one of the common names, touch-me-not or kruidjie-roer-my-nie. The rusty-red flowers appear in large spikes and are followed by 'inflated' fruits. This is a vigorous and hardy plant that will shoot rapidly after winter if scorched by frost. The generic name comes from the Greek *meli*, honey, and *anthos*, flower, referring to the surprisingly large quantities of nectar they produce. It has a widespread distribution.



M. major

Cultivation and care This is a fast-growing plant that is suited to a variety of growing conditions. Once established, it will survive long periods of drought. Plant it in a sunny place where the bluish-green foliage and inflorescences can be seen. Water generously and regularly.

Propagation Propagates easily from seed or rooted cutting.

Ochna serrulata

Common name Small-leaved plane or Carnival bush; Fynblaarrooihout

Family Ochnaceae

2,5 x 2,5 m ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️

Distinctive characteristics This is a small shrub that is at its showiest when the persistent petals turn blood-red and the 5 shiny black fruits, like seeds, are borne on the fleshy base of each flower. This creates a splendid colour contrast of black on red.

Description This lovely shrub of only 2,5 x 2,5 m, is an asset to any garden. It

has an attractive habit with slender branches and oblong to narrowly elliptical, glossy green leaves with serrated margins. The young foliage is bronze-red and the yellow flowers, approximately 20 mm in diameter, have slightly crinkled petals. Numerous golden to orange filaments and anthers are centrally situated. The flowers appear in spring and by October the shiny black fruits on the red, fleshy base in each flower are surrounded by 5 red sepals. The flowers remain for quite a while. This striking shrub grows well in Natal and the Transvaal.

Cultivation and care Plant it in good soil and water well throughout the year until it is well established. Thereafter, reduce the quantity but still water regularly. It tolerates light frost and, for instance, grows very well in Johannesburg. This tree can also be shaped and pruned neatly after the flowering and fruit season.

Propagation It is quite difficult to grow the seed successfully, but a few small plants do appear in the garden after the first fruit season. Cuttings are, however, a more successful propagation method.



Ochna serrulata



O. serrulata

Polygala virgata

Common name Purple broom;
Persbesem

Family Polygalaceae (False legume family)

2 x 1 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics A sparse shrub with graceful inflorescences of deep purplish-pink, winged flowers. One of the loveliest and most popular polygalas, this species has a fairly widespread distribution

Description Only 2 species of this large genus which belongs to the interesting false legume family, are successful and showy garden plants. The flowers resemble pea-flowers and, very characteristic of this legume group, have a keel and 2 wings. However, closer study reveals that the flowers bear no leguminous fruit. In front, the keel terminates in a crown-like tuft, another characteristic trait of the polygalas. The 2 biggest sepals are purplish pink, petal-like and known as wings. This is a truly lovely flower.

Cultivation and care This hardy plant needs no special care. Good, enriched soil, full sun or semi-shade and plenty of water, will ensure rapid, healthy growth. Once established, it will tolerate fairly heavy frost and drought. Plant *Polygala virgata* in the shrub garden or the rockery for a beautiful display.

Propagation It is self-seeding and small plants will appear around the parent plant after the first flowering season. They transplant easily.

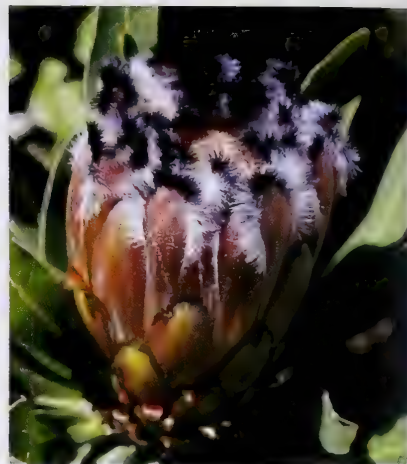
P. myrtifolia

Common name Bloukappie
3 x 2 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description An attractive rounded shrub with a dense foliage of light green, small leaves. The purple-blue, 'pea-shaped' flowers appear during spring, but it also blooms during the other seasons although less profusely. The flowers are borne in small clusters. Highly recommended for coastal and inland areas with a moderate climate.



P. myrtifolia



Protea neriifolia

Protea neriifolia

Common name Blue sugarbush;
Blousuikerbos

Family Proteaceae

3 x 3 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics A large shrub with pink or creamy flowers. Flower heads long and narrow. Very popular garden plant and well adapted to varying soil and climatic conditions. This was the first South African plant to be illustrated (a woodcut) and described long before the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck. Grows wild from Koeëlbaai to near Port Elizabeth and flowers for several months.

Description This genus, which includes South Africa's national flower, *Protea cynaroides*, needs little introduction to South Africa's gardeners and has a widespread distribution. The genus is named after the Greek god, Proteus, who was able to change his shape at will, an indication of the diversity and variety found in this genus. Some species grow fairly easily in gardens and are freely available, while others are scarce and strictly protected. The flower head is an inflorescence containing numerous crowded, sessile flowers. Proteas make magnificent cut flowers and cutting stimulates new growth.

Cultivation and care Plant groups of proteas in large holes in acid soil with excellent drainage. Add acid compost made from pine needles and oak leaves. As many lovely species are native to the winter rainfall areas, water the plants well and regularly during autumn and winter in inland regions.

Propagation Proteas can be grown from seed, or vegetatively from cuttings, by grafting or budding. Several species are available for sale.

Polygala virgata



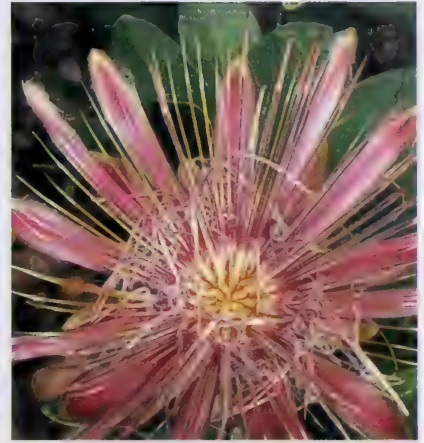
P. aristata

Common name Kleindensuikerbos
2 x 1 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description A neat, rounded shrub with upright needle-like leaves that resemble pine needles – hence the common name. Flowers large, bell-shaped and a brilliant pink-red. It grows on the Swartberg mountains



P. aristata



P. aurea

P. aurea

3 x 2 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description A very adaptable and therefore popular garden shrub which grows wild from Caledon to George. Creamy or soft pink flowers appear from January to June. The involucral leaves open to reveal the long styles which collapse later on, leaving the flower rather untidy.

P. compacta

Common name Bot River protea;
Botrivierprotea
3,5 x 2 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description It grows in the coastal areas from Bot River and Kleinmond to Bredasdorp. A very popular garden specimen. An erect, sparsely branched shrub with bright, conspicuous, pink flowers. Involucral leaves are much longer than the florets. An ideal cut flower, especially in summer.



P. compacta

P. eximia

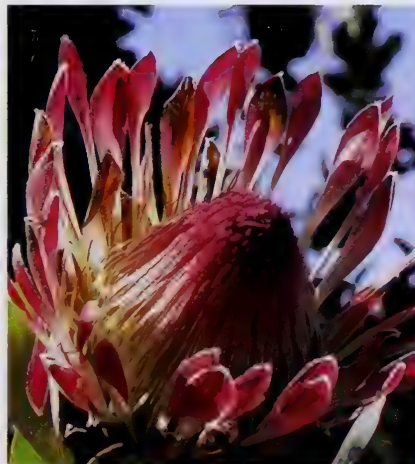
Common name Breëblaarsuikerbos
3 x 2 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description Grows wild on the southern mountain ranges from Worcester to Port Elizabeth. Leaves broadly heart-shaped, flowers large and in shades of red. Inner involucral leaves are characteristically spatulate.

P. grandiceps

Common name Rooisuikerkan
2 x 2,5 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Description Flowers bright brick-red and exceptionally beautiful. A sturdy, neat shrub which grows wild high up on the mountains from Paarl to Caledon and at Uitenhage. Flowers appear in spring and summer.



P. eximia (left) and *P. grandiceps* (right)



P. magnifica

P. magnifica

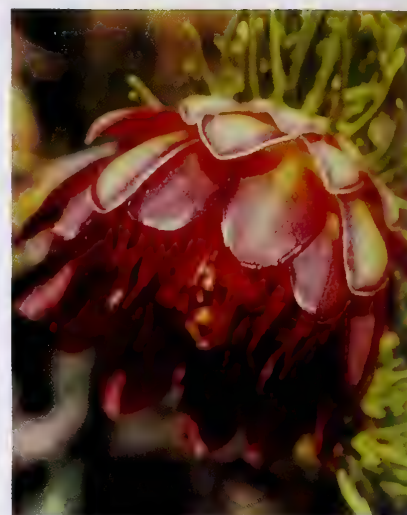
Common name Queen protea; Baard-suikerbos

2 x 2 m    

Description Grows on the mountains from Pakhuis pass in the Cedarberg to Worcester, and at Tulbagh, Ladysmith and Paarl. The flower heads are large with densely haired involucral leaves enclosing the hairy, black-tipped white central part. They are pink or creamy and are, except for those of *P. cynaroides*, the biggest of all protea flowers. Flowers in spring and autumn.



P. repens 'Guerna'



P. nana





P. nana

Common name Mountain rose; Skaamrosie

1 x 0,5 m    



Description A small shrub with arching stems, needle-like leaves and small, hanging, wine-red flower heads resembling roses. It grows wild on the mountains around Ceres, Tulbagh and Paarl. Flowers in summer.

P. repens 'Guerna'

Common name Sugarbush; Suikerbos
3 x 2 m    

Description Of all proteas, *P. repens* has the widest distribution – from Nieuwoudtville to Grahamstown. Flowers produce large quantities of nectar, the source of 'bossie syrup'. Colours vary from creamy-white to dark pink and red. 'Guerna' is one of the first cultivars, cultivated from a Kouga variety. Its flower heads are large, deep red, upright and very attractive. It flowers from December to mid-February.

P. scolymocephala

1 x 1 m    

Description A charming, small shrub growing on sandy coastal flats from the Cape Peninsula to Somerset East and the Cedarberg mountains. It always grows in sandy soil. The shrub is well branched, the leaves are narrow and the very lovely summer flowers are cream-coloured to greenish. Flowers well suited for use as buttonhole flowers.

P. scolymocephala



'Susara' (*P. magnifica* x *P. susannae*)

2 x 2 m     

Description This cultivar has a small to medium flower head with an unusual shape and comes in shades of soft salmon pink to light red. It flowers profusely from March to May and can withstand slightly alkaline soils.

'Sylvia' (*P. eximia* x *P. susannae*)

2 x 2 m     

Description A cultivar with medium, deep pink to red flowers with a satiny shine. Flowers profusely from November to February







'Susara' (*P. magnifica* x *P. susannae*)

***Salvia africana-lutea* (= *S. aurea*)**

Common name Beach salvia; Bruin- of Strandsalie

Family Lamiaceae (*Salvia* family)

2 x 2 m     

Distinctive characteristics A very attractive evergreen shrub with greyish-green leaves and showy, bi-labiate brown flowers in spring and summer.

Description A number of attractive flowering shrub species of this genus occur in South Africa. Their leaves are often aromatic, decussate and show up well throughout the year. *Salvias* flower profusely and their bi-labiate flowers are very distinctive. Hidden in the hood of the flower is the very crafty lever mechanism of the stamens. When an insect

crawls in at the mouth of the flower, looking for nectar in the flower base, its head pushes against a sterile part of the stamen, thus pushing the anther downwards and rubbing off some pollen on the insect's back. When the stigma is mature, it bends down and blocks the way of the insect visiting the flower. If some pollen of another flower is already on the insect's back, it rubs off against the stigma and results in cross-pollination.

Cultivation and care It needs no special soil. Water occasionally, also in winter. The beach salvia is a fine rockery plant; other species can be planted in groups in a bed. *Salvias* prefer full sun and need occasional pruning to keep them neat.

Propagation They grow easily from seed and cuttings.



'Sylvia' (*P. eximia* x *P. susannae*)



Salvia africana-lutea (= *S. aurea*)

Serruria florida

Common name Blushing bride; Bergbruidjie

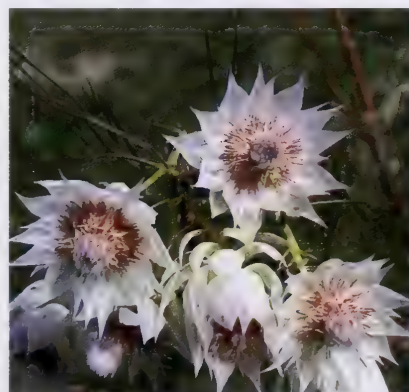
Family Proteaceae (*Protea* family)

1,6 x 0,5 m     

Distinctive characteristics A small, woody and evergreen shrub with exquisite light to dark pink flower heads in spring.

Description This genus currently contains 44 species, all of which occur wild in the south-western Cape. The leaves are characteristic: they are lobed to form tapered, cylindrical segments, and have a particularly fine appearance. Typical of this family, it is the bracts that make the flower heads so conspicuous. The heads are borne either singly or in clusters on a common stem. The attractive flowers are lovely in bridal bouquets and posies.

Cultivation and care *Serrurias* adapt well to the conditions in which proteas flourish – acid, well-drained soil, regular



Serruria florida





water, air movement and a ground covering of pine bark or other plant material. They grow very quickly. Cultivate in a specially prepared rockery pocket in full sun.

Propagation According to Dr Marie Vogts, the protea expert, *Serruria florida* will produce plants that have ripe seeds within 18 months. This is therefore the best method of propagation

Strelitzia reginae

Common name Crane flower; Kraanvoëlblom

Family Strelitziaceae

1,5 x 1,5 m     

Distinctive characteristics A perennial, banana-like plant with striking orange and blue flowers, consisting of 3 orange 'sepals' and 3 fused, blue 'petals'.

Description This is a genus of shrubby, evergreen perennials grown for their lovely foliage and ornamental flowers, which in *Strelitzia reginae* resemble an exotic bird species. They grow wild in the eastern Cape, Transkei, Natal and the northern and eastern Transvaal. The plants have thick rhizomes that may change to woody stems with age. Numerous stems grow together, giving the plant a shrubby or bushy appearance. The leaves are big, dull green and those of *S. juncea* characteristically spear-shaped. It is, however, the spectacular flowers that are eye-catching. The spathe is held horizontally at the tip of the long penduncle from which the flowers enfold successively.

The 3 orange 'sepals' are upright, while the 3 blue, fused 'petals', which contain the stamens and pistil, are horizontal. The flowers produce large quantities of nectar, are long-lasting and world-renowned as cut flowers. *S. reginae* is the floral emblem of Natal and, strangely enough, also of Los Angeles in California.

Cultivation and care This plant resents disturbance and will only flower when it is well-established. Cultivate it in good, enriched soil and water regularly.

Propagation When they have grown too big, divide the clumps into smaller plants, ensuring that each stem retains its own roots.








Strelitzia reginae

Sutherlandia frutescens

Common name Cancer bush or Gansies; Kankerbossie

Family Fabaceae (Legume family)

Subfamily Faboideae (Pea family)

1,25 x 1 m     

Distinctive characteristics A slightly woody shrub with grey-green, pinnately compound leaves and large, coral-red pea-flowers followed by big, inflated, light green pods. It grows wild in dry areas of South Africa.

Description This is a small genus with widely distributed species. The best-known and most commonly grown species is *Sutherlandia frutescens*. Its drooping coral-red flowers contrast beautifully with the greyish-green foliage. The inflated pods float on water, resembling ducklings or goslings, hence the Afrikaans common name of gansies.



Sutherlandia frutescens

Although the best-known common name is cancer bush, no scientific proof exists of this plant being able to cure any form of cancer. Flowers and pods usually decorate the plant simultaneously.

Cultivation and care Cultivate this plant in ordinary garden soil where it will receive full sun, and water it regularly. It

grows quickly and seedlings will flower during the same season. A few of these bushes planted in the rockery will look very showy – the rockery is, in fact, the perfect place for them.

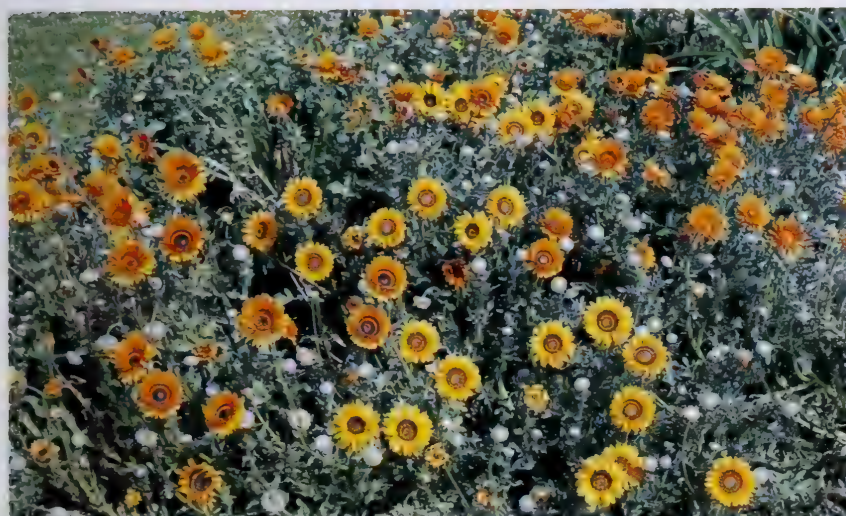
Propagation It propagates from seed quickly and easily. Sow the seed in spring.

3. ANNUALS

Annuals are plants that complete their life cycle in one year. They lend sparkle and colour to any garden from one season to another. Some of our indigenous species are among the most beautiful of all annuals.

The soil must be prepared 10-14 days before seeds are sown or planting takes place. Turn the soil to spade-depth and mix it with good compost and a handful of superphosphate or bone phosphate per m². Water them well.

Mix or group different colours according to your taste. Annuals are at their most attractive when planted in beds or smaller groups.



Arctotis fastuosa

Arctotis fastuosa

Common name Marigold; Bittergousblom

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
600 x 600 mm



Distinctive characteristics The flower heads are borne singly and have 2 whorls of ray florets. The inner florets have a dark brown mark at the base and the disc florets (centrally situated) are black when closed and yellow when open.

Description One of the best-known flowering plants of Namaqualand, marigolds differ from the Namaqualand daisies in that they grow strongly in clumps up to 60 mm high, have coarse, hairy foliage and less delicate flowers. Most of them are annuals, with deeply-lobed, very hairy leaves which are approximately 150 mm long. The flower heads are large, up to 600 mm in diameter, and are borne singly on the leafy stems. Like other marigolds, this

species is a showy plant, suited to a wide variety of growing conditions.

Cultivation and care *Arctotis* will grow in poor soil but, just like any other plant, they do best when compost is added. They are suitable for both coastal and inland gardens. Water regularly from autumn until the flowers appear in spring. Full sun and good drainage are important requirements. They are ideal plants for rockeries and are successful ground covers: nothing could transform an otherwise unsightly embankment into a more splendid sight than masses of marigolds in full bloom.

Propagation The dry flower heads can be picked and the seeds, which are actually achenes, gathered at the end of the flowering season. Store the seed in sealed envelopes and sow them in March, preferably in seed beds so that seedlings can be transplanted 400 mm apart. If they grow too densely in a garden, the production of flowers will be stunted. Every garden in South Africa should have yearly displays of marigolds.



Dimorphotheca sinuata

Dimorphotheca sinuata

Common name Namaqualand daisy; Namakwalandse madeeliefie

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
300 x 300 mm



Distinctive characteristics A well-known annual from Namaqualand. Its flowers transform many a spring garden in South Africa into a brilliant orange and yellow spectacle.

Description This daisy species is probably the best known and most attractive of all our spring flowers. Fortunately it is being widely cultivated and as it flowers profusely and produces many seeds, it is in no danger of becoming extinct. The herbaceous clumps reach approximately 300 mm in height and bear their solitary, terminal flower heads on lateral stems. The flower is approximately 60 mm in diameter and the ray florets appear in shades of orange to yellow. The centres are golden-yellow, fringed with a dark purple line at the base of the ray florets. The flowers are glossy and form sheets of colour with a shimmering brilliance – they only open fully in clear, hot sunshine and the flowers all 'face' north. Although they are not actually scented, they do have a pleasing, fresh fragrance.

Cultivation and care The Namaqualand daisy grows everywhere and in any soil. In March, sow the seed directly in the beds. If the seedlings are too crowded, transplant them when at least 50 mm high – the plants should be not less than 300 mm apart. Bear in mind that they require full sun.

Propagation At the end of the flowering season reap your own seed for the following year.

D. pluvialis

Common name White buttercup or Rain daisy; Witbotterblom or Reënblommetjie
300 x 300 mm 🌱 🌞 🌧️ 🌿

Description A small daisy plant seen in great numbers on the slopes of Signal Hill and Table mountain where they flower in late winter and early spring. Flowers are pure white in colour with a yellow centre, often having a purple halo.

Dorotheanthus bellidiformis

Common name Bokbaaiygjie
Family Mesembryanthemaceae (Vygie family)
100 x 250 mm 🌱 🌞 🌧️ 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A prostrate annual vygie with most attractive flowers in a variety of pastel shades

Description This superb and very popular vygie species is named after Frau Dorothea Schwantes, wife of a German botanist. It belongs to a small genus of dwarf succulent annuals that are still common at Bokbaai on the West Coast and further north in Namaqualand. It is found in many regions of the world – I have even seen some in Scotland and Norway. It only grows to about 100 mm, spreading out flat along the ground, although it is also slightly clumpy. It is seen at its best in mass display during spring when it is completely covered with flowers in all shades of red, pink, purple, orange, apricot and cream. Mass the plants in large beds, on an embankment or in a bed alongside a driveway.



Dorotheanthus bellidiformis



D. pluvialis

Cultivation and care Grows from seed that *must* be sown in autumn. Plant in any soil with a little compost and water sparingly. The plants must not be too densely packed as this will inhibit flowering. They need full sun. No garden in South Africa should be without this rewarding vygie. Seed is freely available but you can also harvest your own at the end of the flowering season: mark the plants according to their colours and collect their dry flower heads for seeds.

Propagation As mentioned above, it grows from seed.

Nemesia strumosa hybrids

Common name Nemesias; Wildeleue-bekies
Family Scrophulariaceae (Snapdragon family)
250 x 250 mm 🌱 🌞 🌧️ 🌿

Distinctive characteristics Annuals bearing colourful, bi-labiate flowers in spring.

Description Many years ago, *Nemesia strumosa* seed was sent to England where the plant was cultivated and improved. The resultant beautiful hybrids are now freely available, and are seen in abundance in South African gardens in spring. These flowering annuals are magnificent and few others are as effective in a mass display. Each flower forms a short tube with a characteristic bi-labiate opening in front. Flower colours range from shades of red, orange, yellow, cream, light blue and mauve to white.



Nemesia strumosa hybrids

Cultivation and care Sow seed in February and March and set out the seedlings about 250 mm apart in enriched soil. Water throughout autumn and winter. As they are slightly sensitive to heavy frost, select a protected position, for example against a north-facing wall, in colder areas. Mass the plants in the garden or group them in a rockery for a cheerful display among all the succulents and stones.

Propagation Ample seed is produced, but seed can also be obtained from seed dealers. No spring garden in South Africa is complete without nemesias.

Senecio elegans

Common name Wild cineraria, Strand-blommetjie

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)

400 x 400 mm ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics An outstanding annual with lovely mauve-pink daisy flowers in spring. It is common in the south-western Cape

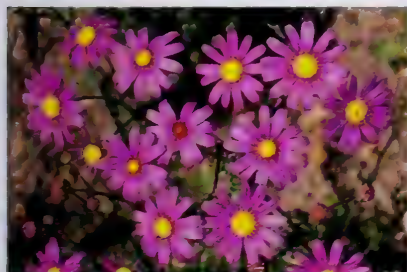
Description *Senecio* is one of the largest genera of flowering plants and includes many indigenous species. The creeper *Senecio tamoides* is also grown for its very attractive glossy green foliage. This plant is fairly readily available, but unfortunately seldom seen in our gardens. It is one of the most beautiful indigenous daisy species

Cultivation and care Most species prefer good, well-drained garden soil and a sunny position. Mass the annuals in beds for maximum effect and water sparingly but regularly. Some species are succulents, and should therefore receive very little water

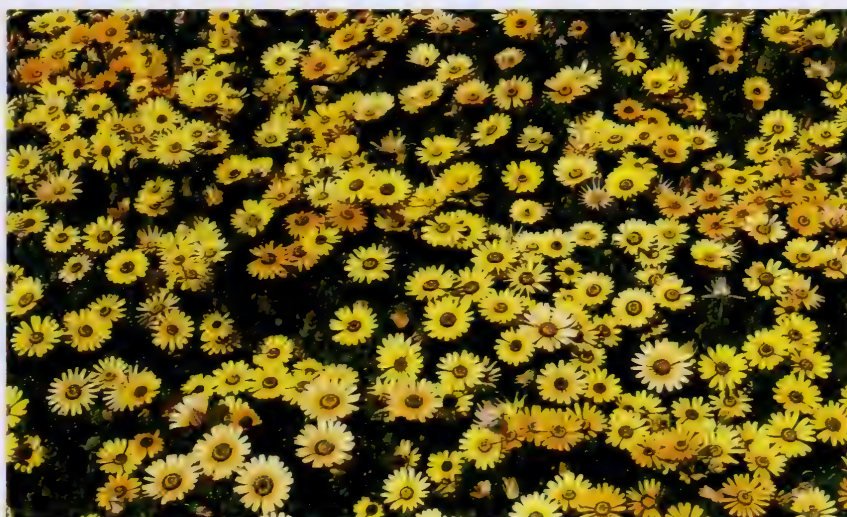
Propagation Characteristic of the daisy family, propagation is mainly from seed sown in seed beds, boxes or directly in its permanent position



Senecio elegans



S. elegans



Ursinia calenduliflora

Ursinia calenduliflora

Common name Marigold, Margriet

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)

250 x 250 mm ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics This annual has fine foliage and orange daisy flowers with a purple ring around their centres, produced in spring

Description *Ursinia* is a genus of annuals and perennials grown for their bright daisy flowers. The leaves are approximately 50 mm long and deeply lobed, and give the plant a soft and dainty appearance. The flowers, borne on long, slender peduncles, are 40-50 mm in diameter and the ray florets are orange with a purplish-black base. The most beautiful species are annuals occurring in Namaqualand and the Clanwilliam area.

Cultivation and care Easily grown in full

sun and sandy, well-drained soil, it is useful for rockeries and bedding areas. Mass the plants for maximum effect when they flower in spring. Sow the seed in March and water throughout winter. **Propagation** *Ursinia* seed germinates very successfully. Harvest your own seed at the end of the flowering time, pick dry flower heads, rub out their seeds (actually achenes) and store them in a dry place.

U. cakilefolia

Common name Marigold, Margriet

250 x 250 mm ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Description A bright and lovely annual with orange-coloured daisy flowers. Grows wild in Namaqualand and the Clanwilliam area. Shows up beautifully in a rockery pocket.



U. cakilefolia



4. HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

These rewarding plants live indefinitely, bearing flowers repeatedly. They lend permanence and stability and often flower during dull periods between seasons. As they continue growing for many years, they must be fed, thinned out, lifted and replanted when necessary. Prepare the soil very well at the beginning, mixing it with a moderate amount of good compost as well as a handful of superphosphate or bone phosphate per m². Feed plants with 3:1:5 (26) SR fertilizer at a handful per m² every 4 months, and water them regularly. The choice and positioning of perennials must be done with great care.



Felicia amelloides

Felicia amelloides

Common name Shubby felicia or Blue marguerite; Bloumargriet

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
1 x 1 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics A bushy, herbaceous shrub of up to 1 m high, with sky-blue, yellow-centred daisy flowers which it bears in spring and almost throughout the year.

Description Truly sky-blue flowers are rare in any garden, but several felicia species bear flowers of a bright, light to intense blue, as well as shades of mauve, pink and white. The generic name is derived from the Latin *felix* meaning cheerful, a reference to the bright flowers. The leaves of this ever-green shrub are small, slightly hairy, and dark green. *Felicia amelloides* is the loveliest and best-known of all the species and is found in many gardens. It is a very fast grower.

Cultivation and care It thrives in full sun or semi-shade and in any soil type enriched with compost. Good drainage is important – water regularly throughout the year. Cut off the old flower stems and heads with ordinary garden-shears after the main flowering season, and occasionally thereafter to keep the shrub neat and in shape. Plant it anywhere in the garden.

Propagation Seeds itself and small plants regularly appear in the garden – this is the best method of propagation.

Gazania krebsiana

Common name Gazania; Botterblom
Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
250 x 300 mm 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics A lovely herbaceous, perennial plant with a clump-forming habit. Its deeply lobed leaves have silvery-grey under-surfaces and the large daisy flowers characteristically have a contrasting colour around their centres.

Description For brilliant colour in sunny places in the garden, gazanias are hard to beat. The petals usually have a satiny texture adding extra intensity to the countless shades of red, pink, orange, yellow, cream and white. Sometimes the petals have bi-coloured longitudinal lines, or spots or blotches at the base, enhancing the flower's attractiveness. Gazanias are divided in 2 groups, namely clump-forming or trailing species. The leaves are dark green above, silvery grey underneath and so deeply lobed that they appear to be compound. They are

Gazania krebsiana



not as hairy as marigold leaves. The gazania clump grows approximately 250 mm high and somewhat wider.

Cultivation and care This plant is ideal for rockeries, beds, or as a ground cover. It has no soil preferences, but good drainage and a little compost are important. Plant it in a sunny place as the flowers only open fully in bright, warm sunshine. Remove the clumps when they become woody and replace them with new, young plants. This will have to be done after approximately 3 years. Water regularly from autumn until the flowering season in spring. It thrives throughout the country.

Propagation Grows very easily from seed and is in fact self-seeding. It hybridizes with equal ease and a few clumps will at a later stage create a magnificent mixture of colours and colour patterns in your garden. The clumps can be divided but rooted cuttings are probably the best method of vegetative propagation. Divide the clumps and plant the cuttings in summer, after the flowering season.

Gazania hybrid

Common name Gazania; Botterblom
250 x 300 mm (F) (S) (G) (W)

Description Forms clumps to about 250 mm. Leaves are green but grey underneath. Flowers appear in winter (also sporadically in summer and autumn) in a variety of colours and markings.

Gerbera jamesonii

Common name Barberton daisy; Barbertonse madeliefie
Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
400 x 600 mm (F) (S) (G) (W)

Distinctive characteristics A perennial, clump-forming, herbaceous plant with large, often red daisy flowers on long, bare penduncles.

Description This popular plant has been cultivated for many years and numerous double and single hybrids in a wide variety of colours have already been developed. In Europe it is one of the most

popular cut flowers and millions are sold every year. The flowers are up to 90 mm in diameter and last surprisingly long in flower arrangements. The main flowering time is from September to November.

The flower of this species is the sports emblem of the northern Transvaal. The plant forms tuft-like clumps, has fairly deeply-lobed leaves and is stemless.

Cultivation and care It needs good, well-drained soil rich in compost, full sun and plenty of water in summer. An ideal bed and rockery plant, it also seems to grow well in semi-shade in very hot areas, although the flower colours are somewhat paler then. On the Highveld, cover the plant with leaves or grass during winter. Plant some specimens of the wild *Gerbera jamesonii*, as well as the beautiful new hybrids currently available in South Africa. They grow well throughout the country.

Propagation As it does not grow very successfully from seed, the best method is to divide the clumps at the end of winter. Throw away the woody middle part and only plant pieces of the rest.

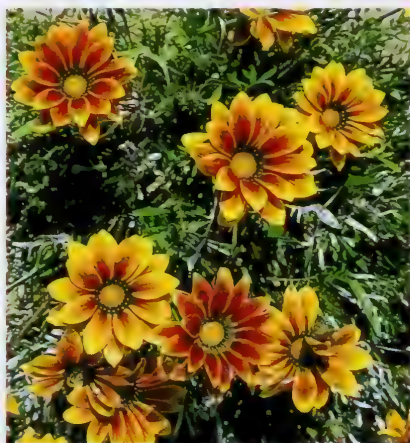


G. jamesonii hybrid

G. jamesonii hybrid

Common name Barberton or Transvaal daisy; Barbertonse madeliefie
300 mm (F) (S) (G) (W)

Description As before.



Gazania hybrid



Hypoestes aristata

Hypoestes aristata

Common name Ribbon bush; Seeroogblommetjie
Family Acanthaceae
1,5 x 1 m (F) (S) (G) (W)

Distinctive characteristics A shrubby evergreen perennial that bears small, mauve flowers with dark purple dots in winter.

Description This genus consists of several indigenous species, the ribbon bush being the most popular. This shrub grows easily and gives a lovely display throughout the year. The dark green leaves are opposite, approximately 50 mm long and broadly lanceolate. Masses of dainty mauve flowers with darker purple markings or dots appear in winter. The petals curl backwards: its resemblance to florist's ribbon led to its common name of ribbon bush. It is an undemanding shrub that deserves greater popularity.

Cultivation and care This plant grows easily, needs little attention, and is very rewarding. At the coast, plant it in good, enriched soil in full sun; in hot inland regions it will do better in semi-shade. Trim it after flowering to keep it neat and to remove woody branches. It looks very effective in a large container on a stoep or patio. Water sparingly but regularly.

Propagation The ribbon bush is self-seeding – seedlings appear all around the garden after the first flowering season. Transplant them when they are about 70-80 mm high.



Gerbera jamesonii







Leonotis leonurus var. *leonurus*

Leonotis leonurus var. leonurus

Common name Wild dagga or Lion's ears; Wildedagga

Family Lamiaceae (Salvia family)

2 x 1,5 m     

Distinctive characteristics A shrub-like perennial growing up to 2 m, with orange flowers arranged in whorls at the nodes of erect stems.

Description Wild dagga species grow wild in the summer rainfall areas of the country. The most commonly grown and also most beautiful species is *Leonotis leonurus* var. *leonurus*. Although this plant is known as wild dagga, it is not related to true dagga, *Cannabis sativa*. It bears beautiful orange flowers in autumn and is a hardy, drought-resistant plant that tolerates frost. Because it grows so easily, it is often relegated to neglected areas of the garden where it tends to become straggly. This plant deserves more attention as it can be very attractive when carefully tended. Its leaves are rough, lanceolate and dull green. The generic name *Leonotis* means lion's ear, a reference to the form and texture of the flower.

Cultivation and care It requires good soil, plenty of water and full sun. Prune regularly. Suited to any area in South Africa, it does well in coastal and inland gardens. It produces plenty of nectar and attracts bees and sunbirds.

Propagation It grows easily from seed or cuttings. Divide the clumps into rooted pieces in summer.








Lobelia erinus

Lobelia erinus

Common name Wild lobelia; Wildelobelia

Family Lobeliaceae

200 x 200 mm     

Distinctive characteristics A bushy annual or biennial with masses of violet-blue flowers.

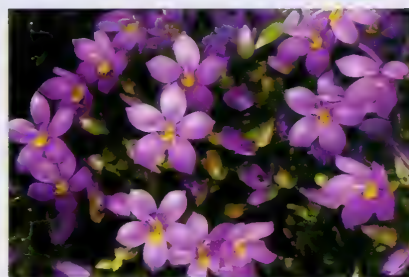
Description *Lobelia erinus*, which grows on mountain slopes from Clanwilliam to Port Elizabeth and up to Natal, has been improved to such an extent that it has become a very popular garden annual. Several cultivars exist, of which the bronze-leaved lobelia with its sky-blue flowers is probably the most popular. Flowers appear in shades of blue, crimson and white. This compact plant shows up beautifully as an edge plant.

Cultivation and care Lobelias like plenty of water, good soil and full sun but will also grow and flower well in semi-shade. Use them as edge plants in a bed or next to a garden path, or plant them among fairly large stones or in a small rocky pocket. This is one of the loveliest of our finer flowering plants and grows well throughout South Africa.

Propagation From seed – if conditions in your garden are fairly damp, it will seed itself freely.



L. erinus








Orphium frutescens

Orphium frutescens

Common name Orphium

Family Gentianaceae

600 x 600 mm     

Distinctive characteristics A small, robust shrub with pinkish-purple, open flowers in summer.

Description Undoubtedly one of our most splendid perennials, this plant grows in damp, sandy areas from the Cape Peninsula to Clanwilliam. In mid-summer it creates a wonderful display – the whole shrub is covered with lovely pinkish-purple flowers, 20-40 mm in diameter, with 5 spreading, glossy petals. They make good, long-lasting cut flowers. The leaves are slightly elliptic and dull green.






Cultivation and care Fortunately this attractive shrub is very easy to cultivate. It grows well in coastal areas and in any soil type, and must be watered regularly, especially in dry areas. Plant it in well-drained soil and where it will receive full sun. It will give a lovely display in a rockery; if space permits, plant 3-4 shrubs together. Once established, the plant will withstand fairly heavy frost.

Propagation Large quantities of seeds are produced – sow them in summer. These seedlings develop so rapidly that the plants ought to flower after a year. *Orphium frutescens* seeds are regularly made available to members of the Botanical Society of South Africa.

Osteospermum ecklonis

Common name Vanstadens river daisy; Jakkalskos

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)

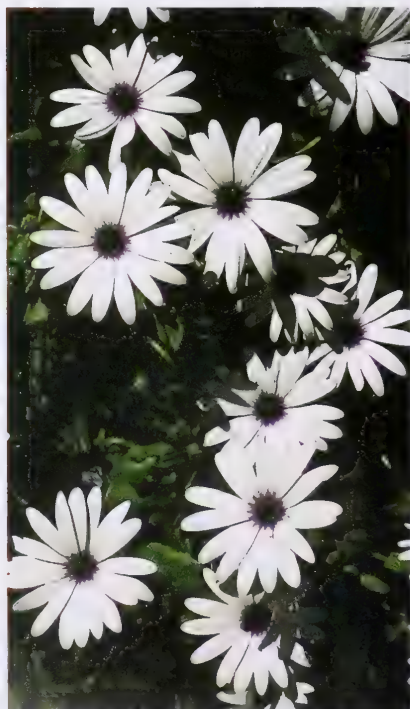
1 x 0,75 m     

Distinctive characteristics A soft, shrub-like plant that bears beautiful, large, white daisy flowers with violet-blue centres, in spring and summer.

Description The genus consists of annuals, perennials, sub-shrubs and shrubs. They are adaptable and showy plants anywhere in the garden, in rockeries and as ground covers. They start flowering in late winter and remain decorative for months. The flowers are generally large with the ray florets usually arranged in a single layer but sometimes, as in *Osteospermum ecklonis*, in a double layer. The stems are herbaceous and the leaves soft.

Cultivation and care They always give a lovely display in beds, a rockery or next to a garden path. Good, friable soil, enriched with compost, is important for healthy growth and flowering. Plant in full sun and do not overwater.

Propagation They grow very easily from seed and are, in fact, self-seeding. Some species, like *O. jucundum*, are ground covers and can be propagated vegetatively with rooted cuttings (pieces of the shoots). Every year the Botanical Society of South Africa includes it on the seed lists which they send to members.



Osteospermum ecklonis

Pelargonium cucullatum

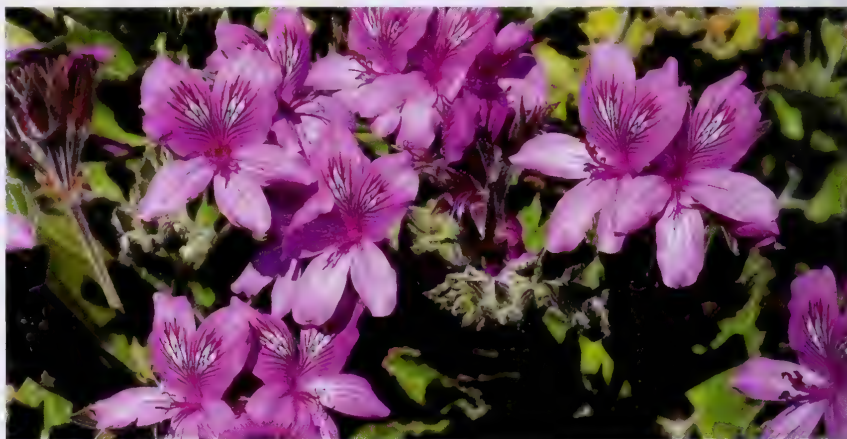
Common name Wild geranium; Wilde-malva

Family Geraniaceae (Pelargonium family)

1 x 1 m     

Distinctive characteristics A fairly big, attractive, shrubby bush with velvety, coarse leaves and large, light purple, characteristic pelargonium flowers – the 2 upper petals are marked with dark-coloured veins.

Description More than 200 pelargonium species grow wild in many parts of southern Africa. They vary greatly in form, leaves, flower size and flower colours. The common name, geranium, is in fact completely wrong – a geranium flower differs from that of a pelargonium. In geraniums the 5 flower petals are equal in size and arranged regularly in a circle. The pelargonium flower also has 5 petals but they are unequal in size and arranged irregularly – the 2 upper ones are considerably larger than the 3 lower ones.



Pelargonium cucullatum






They are also marked differently (see also *Geranium incanum*, p. 85). Leaves are aromatic. Excellent as pot and garden plants.

Cultivation and care They grow very easily from cuttings planted in sandy soil. Use only the top 10 cm of sturdy stems for cuttings. Remove all leaves except 2-3 close to the tip. Replant cuttings in well-drained soil with a little compost. Water sparingly.

Propagation Grown from seed but very easily from cuttings – by far the best way for propagating pelargoniums.

P. x domesticum

Common name Regal pelargonium; Koningspelargonium

400 x 400 mm     

Description These small shrubs are garden hybrids and have beautiful, large flowers often ruffled or frilled, marked and blotched in the full range of purples, reds, pinks and whites in spring.



P. x domesticum



Plectranthus fruticosus

Plectranthus fruticosus

Common name Fly bush; Muishondblaar or Spoorsalie

Family Lamiaceae (Salvia family)
1,25 x 0,5 m ☀️ 🌿 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics An erect, herbaceous shrub with masses of pinkish-mauve flowers in large inflorescences. The flowers are bi-labiate.

Description This is a genus of ever-green, softwood perennials and shrubs that grow wild in many parts of South Africa, and are cultivated for their showy spikes of flowers in shades of pink, pinkish mauve, blue or white. They are useful plants as they grow in semi-shade or deep shade, although some species prefer full sun. Their leaves are large and often glossy green.

Cultivation and care For good results and a sustained flowering period, plant them in enriched soil and water generously. If the clump is severely frostbitten, it will shoot again in spring. Many species are superb ground covers.

Propagation It grows easily from cuttings planted in spring and summer.

P. ecklonii

Common name Spurflower; Spoorsalie
1,5 x 1,5 m ☀️ 🌿 🌱 🌿

Description A spreading shrub bearing masses of purple-blue flower spikes carried above the foliage in autumn. This species will tolerate a sunnier position than most, especially near the coast. Found in Natal and the eastern Cape.



P. ecklonii

P. madagascariensis

250 x 800 mm ☀️ 🌿 🌱 🌿

Description An attractive common sprawling plant which produces spikes of white flowers. Leaves are bright green with creamy edges. It grows wild in parts of Natal and in the eastern Cape. Can be used as a ground cover.



P. madagascariensis

Senecio glastifolius

Common name Large senecio; Water-dissel

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
1,25 x 0,5 m ☀️ 🌿 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics This plant reaches a height of 1,25 m and bears masses of purple-pink flowers in spring

Description A high-growing senecio and attractive when it flowers in spring. The purple-pink flowers have yellow centres

Cultivation and care It is hardy to some frost and shows up very beautifully when planted in dense groups. Seed must be sown in autumn in good, well-drained soil. Prune the plants after flowering to keep them neat.

Propagation Mainly from seed.



Senecio glastifolius

5. BULBS

Bulbs play an important role in gardens, especially in late winter and spring. We are very fortunate to have a great variety of indigenous bulbs at our disposal – make full use of them to create spectacular displays in your garden.

In this book the term bulb includes true bulbs, tubers, corms, rhizomes and thick, fleshy roots (see Glossary, p. 6, for an explanation of each term). All these bulbs (organs) can produce leaves and flowers. Bulbs prefer loose, well-drained soil enriched with compost. Feed the bulbs only after flowering. They possess enough reserve food (energy) for leaf and flower production.

Suppliers will provide information on the planting depth of each species. Always plant bulbs with their growing tips facing upwards and water them very well.

Agapanthus africanus

Common name Agapanthus; Blouelie of Agapant

Family Alliaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)

500 x 500 mm 🌱 🌞 🌧️ 🌿

Distinctive characteristics This plant with its blade-like, shiny leaves grows in big clumps, bearing beautiful umbels on long peduncles. Flowers are pale blue.

Description Previously this genus was fairly common in the wild, but it has gained popularity as a garden plant lately. The agapanthus grows from fleshy rhizomes and has masses of thick, fleshy, grey-white roots, enabling it to go without water for a fairly long time. The rhizomes branch and multiply annually, producing new plants every year which results in its large, clump-forming habit. The leaves are approximately 30 mm wide and can grow up to 1 m long. Flowers are borne in large globose umbels or flower heads.

The generic name comes from the Greek *agape*, love, and *anthos*, flower, and is, therefore, also referred to as the flower of love.

Cultivation and care It is a very rewarding plant and requires little care. Plant the rhizomes in a sunny place in compost-rich soil that drains well. Water regularly, especially during the flowering season, and dig up and divide the clumps every few years. The rhizomes can be broken or cut into pieces and planted 400 mm apart. These plants look best in groups or alongside a driveway, but also show up beautifully in large containers or rockery beds.

Propagation Produces large quantities of seed that germinate very easily, even in the garden. Unfortunately seedlings only flower when they are a few years old. Hence the easiest propagation method is vegetatively, by division of the rhizomes towards the end of winter. Plant them immediately after dividing the rhizomes.



Agapanthus africanus



A. inapertus subsp. *pendulus* 'Graskop'

A. inapertus subsp. *pendulus* 'Graskop'

Common name Graskop agapanthus; Graskop-blouelie
500 x 200 mm 🌱 🌞 🌧️ 🌿





Description Flowers of this species differ from those of the well-known garden specimens – the umbels are much smaller and the flowers are a dark blue-purple, drooping and tubular. It grows wild in the Graskop district.



A. inapertus subsp. *pendulus* 'Graskop'

Amaryllis belladonna

Common name Belladonna lily or March lily; Belladonnaalelie

Family Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis family)
500 x 500 mm    

Distinctive characteristics This bulb flowers in March before its leaves appear. The flowers are big, trumpet-shaped, light to dark pink and borne in umbels on long peduncles





Description This is the only true *Amaryllis*, endemic to the winter rainfall area of the south-western Cape. The bulbs are reasonably big and the sweet-scented flowers that appear in March are 90 mm wide and 120 mm long. They are borne on dark red peduncles and appear before the leaves in summer. The plants do not, however, flower regularly every year. The leaves closely resemble those of the agapanthus but are much shorter. As a result of possible natural hybridization, a large variety of flower colours exists. Beautiful hybrids have already been developed overseas.

Cultivation and care They grow well in loose soil to which compost has been added. Plant the bulbs from November to January with only the neck of each bulb sticking out above the soil, and leave them like this for a few years. Water only when the leaves appear after flowering and when they are growing actively. The flowers show up well in a rockery. They require little care.

Propagation The belladonna lily can be propagated from seed but it will take at least 3 years before the first flowers appear. However, the bulbs propagate rapidly and after a few years, when the plants have grown too big, they should be taken out and divided. In this way your collection can be enlarged – give some of the bulbs to your neighbours.

Babiana rubrocyanea

Common name Kelkiewyn or Rooiblou-bobbejaantjie

Family Iridaceae (Iris family)
100 x 100 mm    

Distinctive characteristics Bobbejaantjies are cormous plants with strongly ribbed, slightly hairy leaves; *Babiana rubrocyanea* has showy, cup-shaped flowers with bright blue petals with red centres. It is one of the most striking species

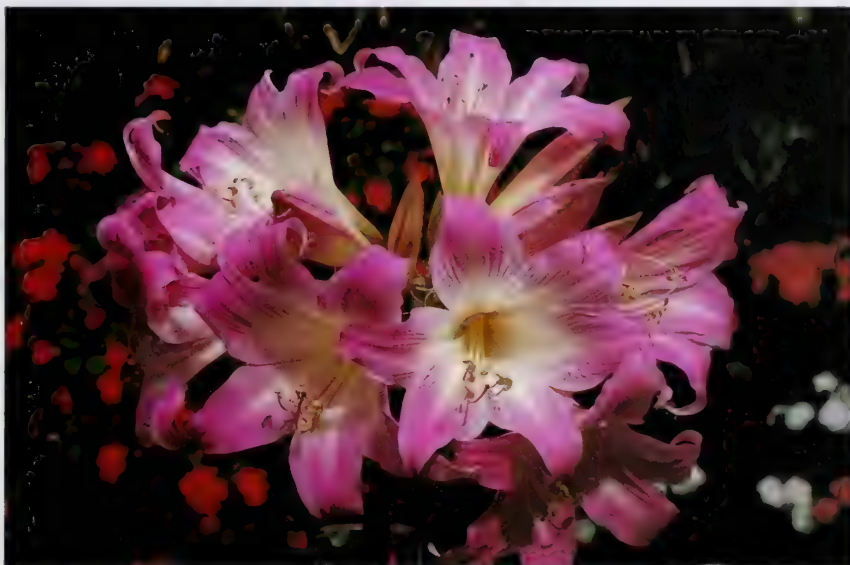
Description Species of this genus are probably among the best-known smaller cormous plants of the iris family. Growing wild in the south-western Cape, their star-shaped flowers appear in spring in a wide range of colours, often blue with contrasting centres. The solid, hairy,

strongly ribbed leaves are very distinctive. The generic name is derived from the Afrikaans 'bobbejaan', a reference to the fact that baboons dig up and eat corms

Cultivation and care These plants are ideal for rockeries, and thrive in full sun. Although they can tolerate poor soil, the plants grow and flower best if some compost is added – good drainage is important. Plant the corms about 200 mm

apart. They will also do well and make a fine display in a container on a patio. When the foliage dies, the corms can be taken out and stored dry, then replanted in March/April. In the winter rainfall area the corms can be left in the soil for the dormant period. Plant any of the species available

Propagation From seed and especially corms – the latter multiply quite fast vegetatively



Amaryllis belladonna



Babiana rubrocyanea

Brunsvigia orientalis

Common name Candelabra flower; Kandelaarblom or Perdespookbossie

Family Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis family)
300 x 300 mm ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌞 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A bulb with a very distinctive large, rounded inflorescence in autumn. The pinkish-red flowers are each borne on their own red flower stalk that in turn grows from the stout peduncle.

Description The bulbs are big, up to about 300 mm long, and produce upright peduncles growing to about 350 mm. The umbel is approximately 500 mm in diameter and bears about 60 pinkish-red, trumpet-shaped flowers on long red stems. The umbel and peduncle break off in one piece after flowering and are blown around the veld like tumbleweed. These flower heads can be rescued and made into unusual indoor decorations. The broad leaves of *Brunsvigia orientalis* only appear after flowering and lie flat on the ground. It grows wild in the western, south-western and southern Cape.

Cultivation and care Plant the bulbs in full sun, their necks level with the soil surface, and in good, loose, well-drained soil. They grow slowly, resent being moved and should receive no water in their dormant period. Bulbs will probably only flower 2 years after being planted. A climate and soil that closely resemble those of its natural habitat are important requirements if it is to produce its beautiful flowers in autumn. A few of these plants will show up very well in a rockery.

Propagation From seeds, as its bulbs do not multiply. Although it will take a few years before the flowering stage is reached, it is definitely worth the wait.



Brunsvigia orientalis



B. natalensis

B. natalensis

Common name Candelabra flower; Kandelaarblom
350 x 350 mm ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌞 🌿

Description Widespread in the Orange Free State, Natal, Swaziland and the Transvaal. The umbel is large and the crimson flowers are borne on very long peduncles. Leaves feel rough, are broad and lie flat on the ground.

Chasmanthe floribunda var. floribunda

Common name Flames; Suurkanolpypie
Family Iridaceae (Iris family)
1,5 x 0,2 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌞 🌿

Distinctive characteristics The plants resemble watsonias but the inflorescence and flowers are very characteristic. The flowers, borne in flat spikes, are arranged alternately on the spike. The flower tube is sharply constricted near the base.

Description A perennial, branched herb growing from a corm, with sword-shaped leaves up to 500 mm long and 50 mm wide. The orange-red flowers are arranged in spikes at the tips of long peduncles. They appear in late winter and early spring, are curved, virtually hood-shaped, with the stamens protruding from the tube. Grows in the south-western Cape.

Cultivation and care Easy to grow from corms planted in friable, enriched soil. They prefer full sun but will also grow well in semi-shade, although they may

then flower less abundantly. As they are sensitive to heavy frost, plant them in areas where they are protected from morning sun. The leaves usually drop in autumn, but the corms can be left in the soil. Plant the corms in late summer, approximately 50 mm deep and 300 mm apart, and water them regularly until spring. Select a marsh-like spot in the garden where they can be left undisturbed for a few years – this encourages flowering.

Propagation From seed, but will only flower after 2 years. The best and quickest propagation method is to use corms, especially as they multiply rapidly. Corms are often offered for sale.



Chasmanthe floribunda var. *floribunda*



C. floribunda var. *duckittii*

C. floribunda var. *duckittii*

Common name Yellow suurkanolpypie; Geelsuurkanolpypie

1,5 x 0,2 m 🌱 🌿 🌞 🌧️ 🌱

Description Like the previous species but has primrose-yellow flowers and grows only in the Darling district.

Clivia miniata var. *miniata*

Common name Bush lily; Boslelie

Family Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis family)

750 x 750 mm 🌱 🌿 🌞 🌧️ 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A lily-like shade plant with an underground stem, persistent, dark green, strap-shaped leaves and large umbels of orange flowers in spring.

Description These very popular plants grow wild in Natal, the eastern Cape and eastern Transvaal and have been grown as pot plants for more than a century overseas. The roots are thick and fleshy, often cormous, and the evergreen



C. miniata var. *citrina*

leaves, crowded in dense clumps, are up to 500 mm long and 40 mm wide. However, it is the large rounded umbels at the tips of the long peduncles that give this plant its popularity – the flowers being dark orange-pink and up to 50 mm in diameter. They are followed by lovely red berries.

Cultivation and care They grow best in shady conditions, for example under shrubs or trees, and in deep soil rich in compost. They are very popular as pot plants on stoeps and patios: position the pot where it will receive morning sun. Do not divide unnecessarily as they resent being disturbed.

Propagation Division of the clumps is the more successful method, but only do it when the roots start displacing each other and appear above the surface. Using a garden fork, carefully lift the plant from the soil and remove the smaller plants (suckers) with a sharp knife – these suckers appear all around the parent plant and already have their own roots. Plants can also be propagated from seed. Seeds are ripe approximately 10 months after the flowering season.

C. miniata var. *citrina*

Common name Yellow bush lily; Geel boslelie

750 x 750 mm 🌱 🌿 🌞 🌧️ 🌱

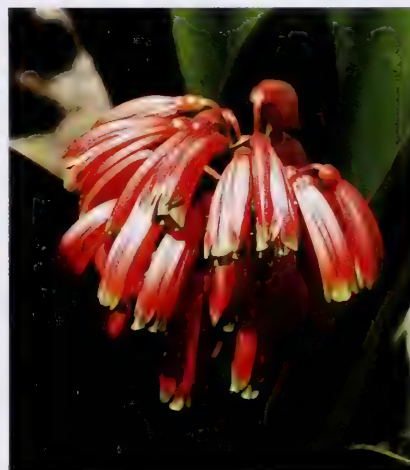
Description As before, but with yellow flowers. Originally found in Natal

C. caulescens

Common name Transvaal bush lily, Transvaal-boslelie

800 x 800 mm 🌱 🌿 🌞 🌧️ 🌱

Description A species with a distinct aerial stem and attractive foliage. Flowers drooping, tubular and in various shades of red or orange. Grows wild in the eastern Transvaal and Swaziland



C. caulescens



C. nobilis

C. nobilis

Common name Bush lily; Boslelie

450 x 450 mm 🌱 🌿 🌞 🌧️ 🌱

Description Flowers drooping, tubular in shades of orange with green tips. Grows in the eastern Cape



Clivia miniata var. *miniata*

Crinum bulbispermum

Common name Orange river Lily;
Oranjerivierlelie

Family Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis family)
700 x 500 mm ☞ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

Distinctive characteristics A large bulb and beautiful lily with an enormous inflorescence and trumpet-shaped flowers. Flowers from October to December.

Description Some *Crinum* species make lovely garden plants and deserve to be planted in greater numbers. The huge bulbs, up to 150 mm long, give rise to very large clumps with persistent strap-like leaves. Later, a solid peduncle appears bearing showy, lily-like flowers, trumpet- to bell-shaped, in shades of white and pink, with a pink line down the perianth segments. The anthers are black and horseshoe-shaped. The name comes from the Greek *krinon* meaning lily. *Crinum bulbispermum* grows wild in the northern Cape, Orange Free State, the Transvaal and Natal. It is the floral emblem of the Orange Free State.

Cultivation and care Most species prefer marshy or moist places and are thus excellent for planting next to a fish pond or stream. Nevertheless, they can go without rain or water for long periods once established. Do not disturb the bulbs unnecessarily – prepare the planting soil thoroughly so that the bulbs can grow undisturbed for a few years. Except for *C. bulbispermum*, most of the well-known species are sensitive to heavy frost and, in those areas with very cold winters, they should be planted in well-protected spots. They thrive in full sun or semi-shade.

Propagation Easily from seed, but it will probably take 3-4 years before it flowers.



Crinum bulbispermum

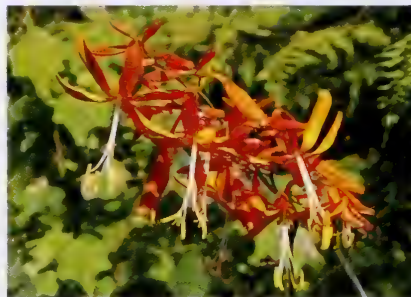


C. moorei

C. moorei

Common name Natal lily; Boslelie
700 x 500 mm ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

Description Flowers large, white with a pink tinge and scented. A lovely species which enjoys full shade. Grows wild in the eastern Cape and Natal and flowers from November to March.



Crocosmia aurea var. *aurea*

Crocosmia aurea var. *aurea*

Common name Falling stars; Vallende sterretjies

Family Iridaceae (Iris family)
1 x 0,3 m ☞ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

Distinctive characteristics Indigenous cormous plants up to 1 m high with a lovely, arching, branched inflorescence bearing orange-red, star-shaped flowers.

Description These attractive semi-shade plants, previously known as montbretia, occur in the Transvaal, Natal, the eastern Cape and Swaziland. Characteristic of the iris family, the leaves are sword-shaped and bright green. The inflorescence is exquisite: the peduncle branches and each branchlet bears beautiful orange-red starry flowers in spikes. The flowers are semi-pendant – hence the common name of falling stars. They flower in summer.

Cultivation and care They grow from corms which resemble those of the gladiolus. Plant them in August/September, approximately 40 mm deep and 200 mm apart in compost-rich soil. They grow very successfully in semi-shade and can be planted beneath trees or shrubs where they will receive morning sun. Do not disturb them for a few years and treat them like gladiolus plants.

Propagation The corms propagate very regularly – lift the clumps and divide the corms every couple of years. They also grow from seed, but will then take 3-4 years before they flower.



C. aurea var. *aurea*



Cyrtanthus elatus (= *C. purpureus*)

Cyrtanthus elatus (= *C. purpureus*)

Common name George lily; Georgelelie
Family Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis family)
 750 x 250 mm ☀️🌧️🌱🌿

Distinctive characteristics A bulb with beautiful trumpet-shaped, scarlet or pink flowers in summer. Other well-known species in this genus are the ifafa lily and the fire lily.

Description Bulbs in this genus are commonly known as fire lilies because some species burst into bloom after veld fires, forming brilliant scarlet patches in the blackened veld. The flowers are borne in loose umbels at the tips of peduncles that can become 600 mm long. The generic name comes from the Greek *kyrtos*, curved, and *anthos*, flower, referring to the graceful, drooping way in which the flowers curve away from the peduncles. The leaves are sword-shaped, bright green and form dense clumps.

Cultivation and care Plant the bulbs with about a quarter of the bulb above good, enriched soil and water them generously.

Propagation From seed: plant in summer and water regularly. Sometimes the bulbs develop shoots – remove them carefully and replant. Do not disturb the clumps unnecessarily.

C. sanguineus

Common name Kei lily; Keilelie
 200 x 20 mm ☀️🌧️🌱🌿

Description It grows in the eastern Cape and Natal extending into East Africa. Flowers appear in summer – they are pink to bright red with red lines in the throat. The plants thrive when growing densely and should be left undisturbed.

Dietes grandiflora

Common name Wild iris; Wilde-iris
Family Iridaceae (Iris family)
 1 x 1 m ☀️🌧️🌱🌿

Distinctive characteristics An ever-green plant that forms large clumps. Its beautiful flowers, 70-100 mm in diameter, consist of 6 white perianth segments with yellow or brown markings near the base, and 3 mauve central segments.

Description The wild iris grows from rhizomes and forms dense evergreen clumps. The leaves are dark green, rigid, sword-shaped and up to 1 m long. The long peduncles appear in early summer, and are followed by the attractive flowers. Although they only last a day, new flowers are formed constantly during the flowering season, thus giving a beautiful display each day. The flower has a very interesting structure – the 3 mauve segments in the centre contain the stigmas with the 3 stamens underneath. The fruits are tri-locular, long (up to 60 mm)



C. sanguineus



Dietes grandiflora

and produce masses of pitch-black seeds. Grows in the eastern Cape, Transkei and Natal.

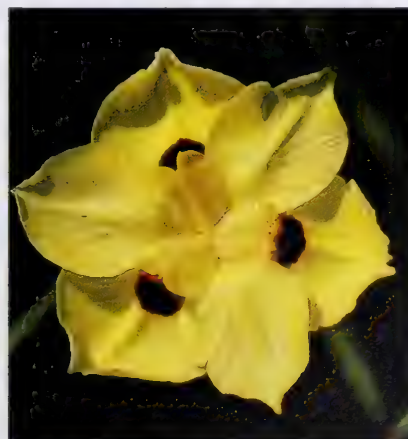
Cultivation and care It thrives in practically any soil type and in most areas of the country. Plant it in full sun or semi-shade and water sparingly but regularly. Remove the old leaves and flower stems periodically. If the clumps become too large, divide them into smaller ones.

Propagation Ample seed is produced but plants grown from seed will probably only flower after 2-3 years. The easiest and quickest method of propagation is by means of rhizome pieces. Plant them 400 mm apart in compost-rich soil.

D. bicolor

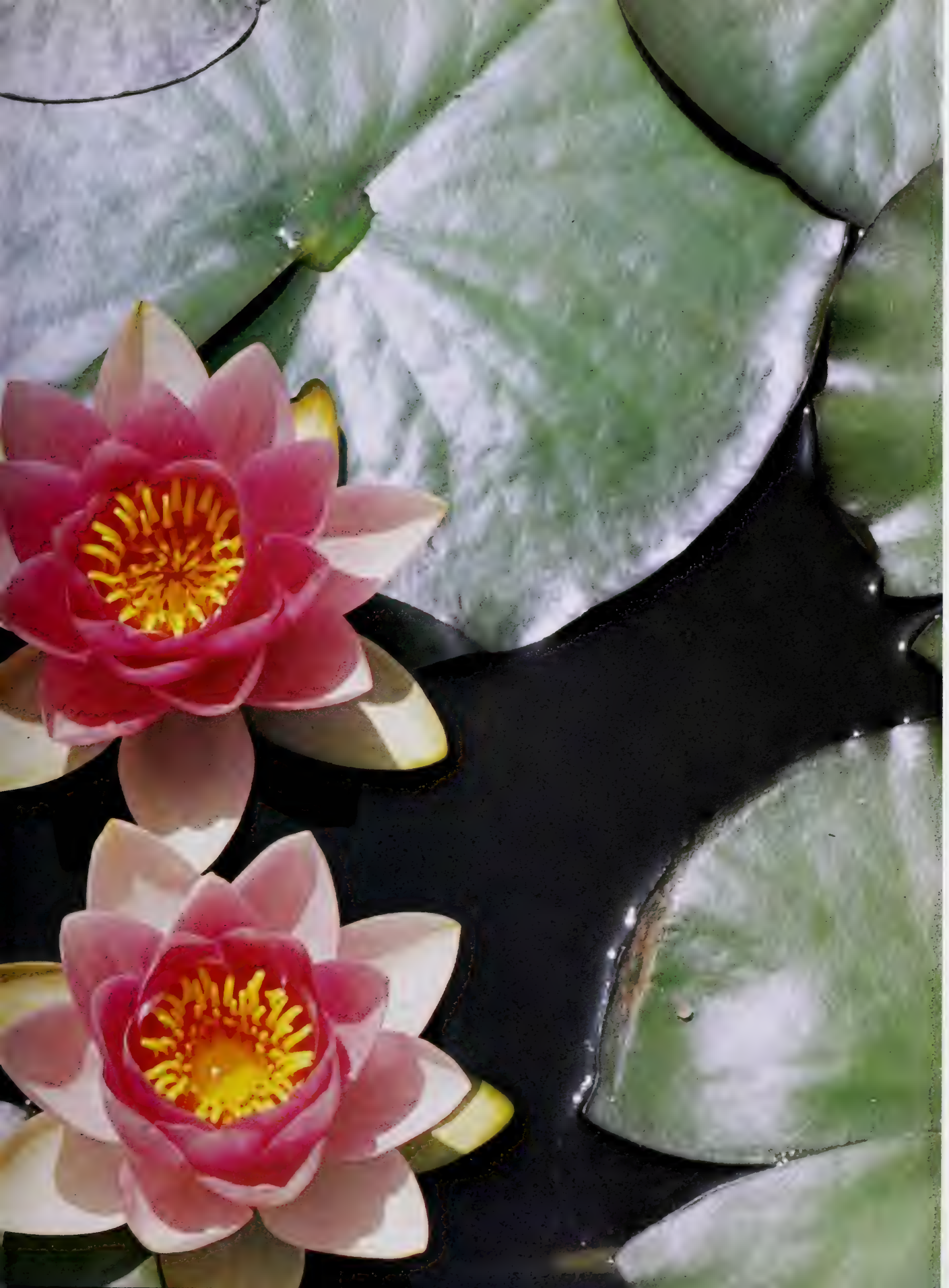
Common name Peacock flower; Uiltjie
 1 x 1 m ☀️🌧️🌱🌿

Description As above, but flowers are yellow with dark brown markings. It grows in the eastern Cape.



D. bicolor







Eulophia speciosa

Eulophia speciosa

Common name Aandblommetjie
Family Orchidaceae (Orchid family)
 1 x 0,25 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A terrestrial orchid with solid, erect leaves, and long peduncles bearing lovely golden-yellow flowers with purple lips

Description There are a number of very beautiful terrestrial orchids in South Africa and of these *Eulophia speciosa* is one of the most attractive. This hardy plant has no special growth requirements, and occurs wild in the southern and eastern coastal regions, up to the Transvaal. Growing from a tuber or rhizomatous stem, it maintains its foliage in winter. Flowers, which appear in early summer, are borne in open racemes. Their green sepals bend backwards

Cultivation and care Plant the tubers in semi-shade in good, well-drained, loose soil with plenty of compost. Do not work

around them unnecessarily. Administer liquid feeding once every 2 weeks if necessary – use a standard mixture that easily dissolves in water.

Propagation From division of the plants when the clumps have grown too big and dense. Do it in late winter and early spring. Transplanted orchids will probably only flower the following summer.

Freesia hybrids

Common name Freesias; Kammetjies
Family Iridaceae (Iris family)
 200 x 150 mm ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics Cormous plants bearing heavily fragrant, tubular flowers in a row down the stems, like the teeth of a comb.

Description Of all our spring-flowering species, freesias are probably the most popular because their corms are readily available. They have long been cultivated overseas and have also been hybridized in Europe. Most of the garden freesias we plant today are in fact hybrids – they are available in beautiful bright colours (red, orange, yellow, purple and white) but unfortunately their fragrance has faded. They are excellent cut flowers and are very popular in Europe. Freesias are flattened by too much rain – shelter or some form of staking is therefore recommended. The leaves are grass-like.

Cultivation and care Plant the corms during April, 150 mm apart, setting them out approximately 40 mm deep in friable, well-drained soil in full sun. They give a lovely display when grouped in a rockery. Water sparingly but regularly throughout winter in summer rainfall areas.

Propagation The corms multiply vegetatively, forming numerous small corms each year. When the foliage dies, the corms and small corms can be lifted and stored dry. Plant the small corms to one side of the garden in April and allow them to reach 'maturity' – the small corms will only flower well after 2 years.



Galtonia candicans

Galtonia candicans

Common name Mountain lily; Kaapse hiasint or Berglelie
Family Hyacinthaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)
 1,2 x 0,5 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A bulb with a long inflorescence (1,2 m) and snow-white, drooping, bell-shaped flowers.

Description *Galtonia* is a small genus closely related to the hyacinths and only *Galtonia candicans*, native to the Drakensberg mountains, is commonly grown. A typical lily with large, dark green leaves, it grows in clumps. The waxy flowers are borne in open spikes at the tips of the solid, long peduncles.

Cultivation and care Plant the bulbs in late winter in good, well-drained garden soil with the necks of the bulbs level with the soil surface and where they will receive full sun. Group them for the showiest display. Water regularly until the leaves begin to die off, but do not remove the bulbs as they grow and flower best when left undisturbed for a few years.

Propagation Lift and transplant the bulbs after a couple of years, planting the smaller bulbs separately – they are formed vegetatively by the parent plants. This species also grows easily from seed sown in April but will, however, only flower after approximately 2 years.



Freesia hybrids



Gladiolus dalenii (= *G. natalensis*)

Gladiolus dalenii (= *G. natalensis*)

Common name Rhodesian gladiolus;
Rhodesiese gladiolus

Family Iridaceae (Iris family)
400 x 150 mm ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱

Distinctive characteristics Some of the best-known cormous plants in South Africa belong to this genus. It has sword-shaped leaves and spikes of lovely

hood-shaped flowers on solid peduncles. Flowers are orange-red and yellow.

Description The plants of this genus vary from small, fine, sometimes aromatic indigenous species, for example *Gladiolus carinatus* (blue afrikaner), to the numerous hybrids with their magnificent, colourful, stately spikes of large flowers cultivated from certain indigenous species. They are cormous plants with long, sword-shaped leaves – the generic name in fact comes from the Latin *gladiolus*, small sword. The flowers of *G. alatus*, commonly known as kaikoentjie, resemble the wattles of a turkey – the 3 upper tepals are brick-red, the 3 lower ones narrower and yellowish green with orange tips. *G. dalenii* grows wild in the eastern Cape, Transkei, Natal, Lesotho, Orange Free State, the Transvaal and Swaziland. It is an excellent garden specimen.

Cultivation and care They are fairly easy to cultivate. Plant the corms approximately 100 mm deep and 200 mm apart in full sun and friable soil enriched with compost, 3 months before the flowering season. Plant them in groups for the best display. Cut off the flower stems after the flowers have withered and, after the leaves have died, take out the corms and store them dry. As certain insects and pests, for example thrips, attack the plants, it is essential to treat them in time with an effective insecticide.

Propagation Mainly by multiplication of corms, sometimes in great numbers. Cultivate the small corms in separate beds until they are big enough to flower – it takes about 2 seasons.

Haemanthus coccineus

Common name March flower; Bloed-blom or Maartblom

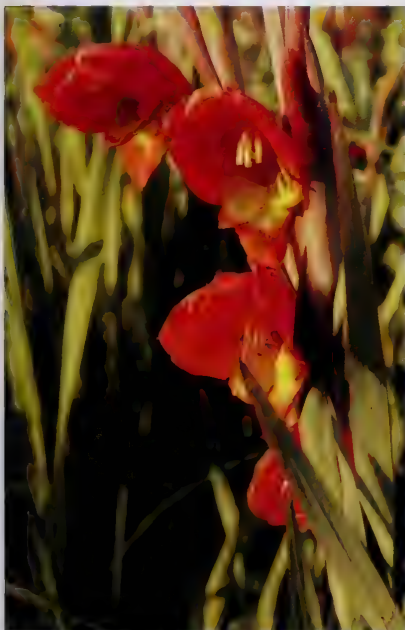
Family Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis family)
250 x 250 mm ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A bulb that bears only 2 large leaves with fine hairs along the margins. The flowers, borne at the tips of the long peduncles, are densely massed and resemble a shaving-brush in shape. Dark red bracts surround the flowers.

Description The generic name *Haemanthus* is derived from the Greek *haima*, blood, and *anthos*, flower, a reference to the deep red flowers of some of the species. The flowers usually appear before the leaves. A number of species previously included in this genus have now been reclassified as *Scadoxus*. *Haemanthus* differs from *Scadoxus* in that it has bulbs, whereas *Scadoxus* has rhizomes or at least bulbs with rhizomatous parts. The leaves of the *Scadoxus* species also show a prominent midrib, absent in *Haemanthus* species.

Cultivation and care Plant the bulbs in good soil in semi-shade where their roots can stay cool. Good drainage and plenty of water in the growing season are important requirements. Do not disturb the plants.

Propagation Seeds germinate and grow well, but it will be quite a while before the bulbs are strong enough to flower. If the clumps grow too densely, lift the bulbs and divide them – however, only do it when really necessary.



G. dalenii (= *G. natalensis*)



Haemanthus coccineus

Ixia hybrids

Common name Ixias; Kalossies

Family Iridaceae (Iris family)

300 x 100 mm ☀️ 🌧️ 🌞 🌱

Distinctive characteristics Cormous plants with fine, grassy leaves and long, wiry peduncles with dense spikes of star-shaped flowers at their tips. The most attractive species grow in the south-western Cape. New hybrids are very popular.

Description It is a great pity that so few ixias are seen in our gardens even though corms of the loveliest hybrids are sold annually by many seed and bulb dealers. They are only one of the many South African plant species that were taken to Europe to be improved several years ago. Today we can benefit from this by obtaining some of the numerous hybrids released. These attractive, multi-coloured plants grow well throughout the country. Mass them in large groups for maximum effect in spring.

Cultivation and care Plant the small corms approximately 40 mm deep in friable soil enriched with compost or old kraal manure, and water regularly from planting time in autumn throughout winter. When the foliage has died, the corms can either be left in the soil or taken out and stored dry. The corms might rot during their dormant period in summer rainfall areas.

Propagation Mainly from corms that multiply fairly quickly each year.



Ixia hybrids



Kniphofia praecox subsp. *praecox*

Kniphofia praecox subsp. *praecox*

Common name Red-hot poker; Vuurpyl

Family Asphodelaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)

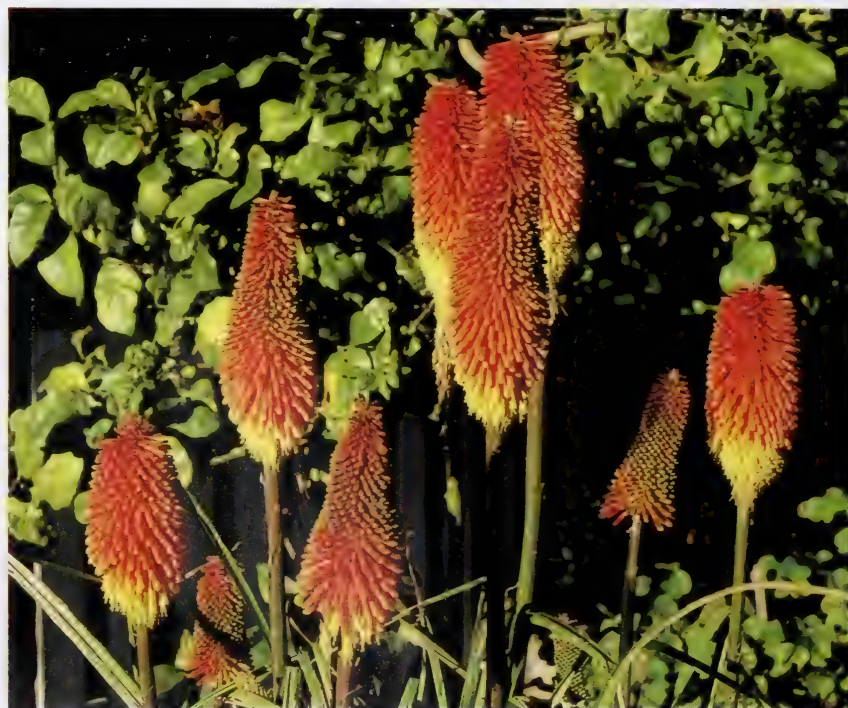
1,5, x 1 m ☀️ 🌧️ 🌞 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A clumpy perennial plant with attractive long peduncles and large, dense racemes of flaming red lily flowers.

Description This is a genus of strong, rhizomatous perennials with many species indigenous to South Africa. Some species are evergreen, but others lose their leaves in winter. They also have different growing seasons – some flower in summer, others in winter. The racemes of flowers closely resemble those of aloes, appearing in shades of red, orange or cream. Some racemes are bi-coloured, while others change colour from top to bottom. The leaves are ribbon-shaped and slightly grassy. Red-hot pokers give a striking display in groups. It grows wild in the southern Cape.

Cultivation and care In nature this species prefers marshy areas and full sun, which gives an indication of its growing requirements. Plant the rhizomes in enriched soil with good drainage and water generously if not planted close to water. They give a lovely display when planted in a bed next to a driveway, in a large bed on a lawn or in groups among other bulbs or shrubs. It is a willing, tough plant, always flowering successfully, and earns its place in the garden.

Propagation Mainly vegetatively by division of the rhizomes when the plant does not flower. Old rhizome pieces can be cut out and discarded simultaneously. Plant the rhizomes approximately 100 mm deep.



K. praecox subsp. *praecox*



Lachenalia aloides var. *quadricolor*

Lachenalia aloides var. **quadricolor**

Common name Cape cowslip; Vierkleurtjie or Klipkalossie

Family Hyacinthaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)

200 x 100 mm ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼

Distinctive characteristics A small bulbous plant with beautiful, drooping multi-coloured lily flowers in dense spikes.

Description This lovely bulbous plant occurs mainly in the western and south-western Cape, but also in Namaqualand and the eastern Cape. It bears tubular flowers in bright shades of purple, red, orange and yellow, and they are also often variegated. Other colours include delicate pastel shades of blue, pink and mauve. Colourful new cultivars are being developed and made available by the research unit of the Department of Agriculture at Roodeplaat near Pretoria. The leaves are almost rosette-like and often have purple dots.

Cultivation and care This rewarding plant flourishes in a sunny spot in a rockery and looks striking in a wall container next to a patio. It is often grown as a container plant both indoors and out – this is an excellent way of cultivating it as it needs full sun, good drainage and a dry dormant period. The bulbs are occasionally available from seed and bulb dealers. Plant them proximately 40-50 mm deep in good garden soil.

Propagation The easiest method of propagation is to remove small bulbs from the bigger ones during their dormant period. Plant them immediately.

Lachenalia hybrids

Common name Viooltjies

200 x 100 mm ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼

Description As before, but these new hybrids, cultivated by the Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Research Institute at Roodeplaat, and propagated and marketed by selected nurseries, are very beautiful. They are strong growers and show a greater variety in colour



Lachenalia hybrids

Nerine sarniensis

Common name Guernsey lily; Rooinerina

Family Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis family)

450 x 200 mm ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼

Distinctive characteristics A popular bulb with large, umbel-like inflorescences and scarlet flowers that appear before the leaves in autumn. A white variety is also available.

Description An exclusively South African genus, except for 1 species from Zimbabwe. Nerinas are grown for their attractively coloured flowers which also make excellent cut flowers. The very attractive tepals are often wavy or sinuate. *Nerine sarniensis* naturalized itself totally on the island of Guernsey after a ship with these bulbs on board had run ashore there in 1659. In South Africa, some species occur in the summer and others in the winter rainfall areas – their growth requirements vary accordingly. The leaves are strap-shaped and, in finer species, totally grass-like. The umbel-like inflorescences on long peduncles are very characteristic. The Guernsey lily grows wild in the western and south-western Cape.

Cultivation and care Plant the bulbs with their necks showing above the ground in good, enriched, well-drained

soil, and in full sun. Do not disturb them unnecessarily and water them adequately during the growing season. Nerinas show up best in groups. Plant the bulbs where the lovely flowers can be appreciated best, for example in a rockery. This is one of our most beautiful bulbs.

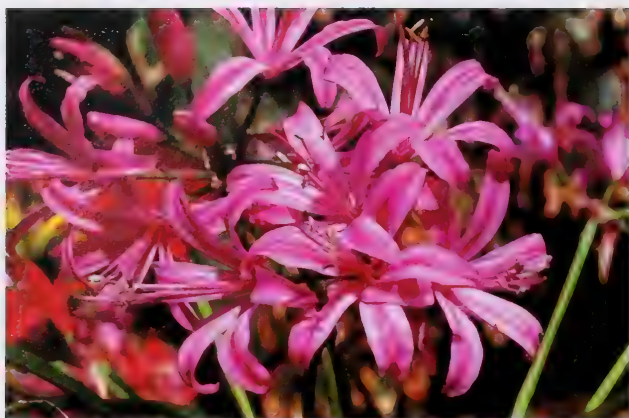
Propagation They can be grown from seed planted immediately after it has been released by the fruits. The plants will only start flowering after 3 years though. The bulbs propagate vegetatively and the clumps should be lifted and divided when they grow too dense.



Nerine sarniensis



N. sarniensis



Nerine hybrids

Nerine hybrids

Common name Nerines or Nerinas:

Nerinas

450 x 200 mm ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Description As before. These strong-growing hybrids are available in a variety of colours and colour combinations. Highly recommended

Ornithogalum thyrsoides

Common name Chinchierinchee,

Tjienkerientjee

Family Hyacinthaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)

300 x 200 mm ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics A bulb with characteristic, large, creamy-white lily flowers in an umbel-like inflorescence on a long, smooth peduncle. The name chinchierinchee is apparently a phonetic rendition of the sound the peduncles make when they rub against each other in the wind

Description Quite a few species of this bulbous genus are perennials and the best-known, *Ornithogalum thyrsoides*, is a superb cut and export flower. It grows wild in Namaqualand, the western Cape through to the Cape Peninsula and the southern Cape. Its flowers are creamy-white, star-shaped and arranged in racemes on long peduncles. Flowers in shades of orange, yellow and green also occur. The leaves are typical of many of the liliaceous plants.

Cultivation and care They are very adaptable plants and their cultivation requirements correspond to those of other bulbs. As most species grow wild in the winter rainfall areas, give them plenty of water when grown inland. Plant the bulbs 50 mm deep in good, friable soil from February to March and water occasionally, continuing throughout autumn and winter. They show up best in groups



O. saundersiae

O. saundersiae

Common name Transvaal chinchierinchee; Transvaal-tjienkerientjee

1 x 0,2 m ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Description As before. This very beautiful and robust species grows wild from Zululand to Swaziland and the eastern Transvaal. Its white or creamy flowers on a very long peduncle appear from January to April. Also a good cut flower.



Ornithogalum thyrsoides

Scadoxus multiflorus subsp. *katharinae*

Common name Blood lily; Bloedlelie

Family Amaryllidaceae (Amaryllis family)

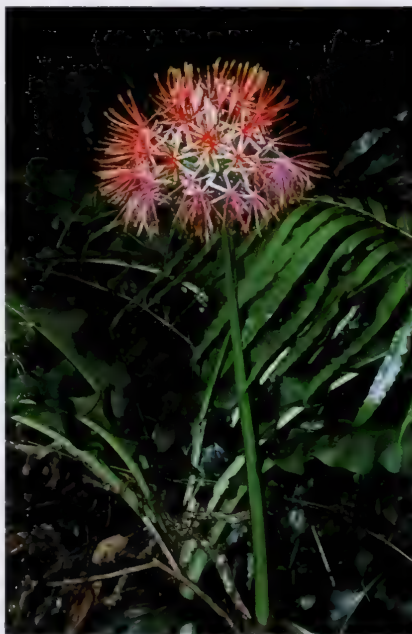
500 x 300 mm ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics The blood lily with its paintbrush-like inflorescence and numerous blood-red flowers has a unique beauty. It grows wild in the southern and eastern Cape, Natal, the eastern Transvaal, Swaziland and Zimbabwe.

Description As mentioned under *Haemanthus coccineus* (p. 61), all *Scadoxus* species were previously included in the *Haemanthus* genus. However, *Scadoxus* species differ by not having a true bulb, but a rhizomatous organ under the ground. Their leaves also differ – they are not distinctly distichous and are thinly textured with a prominent midrib. Their peduncles grow up to 500 mm high and bear a magnificent terminal inflorescence up to 150 mm wide. Reddish bracts surround the large numbers of red flowers borne in late summer.

Cultivation and care This plant prefers damp soil rich in compost. Plant it in semi-shade beneath shrubs or trees and water regularly.

Propagation It grows from seed or is propagated vegetatively by division of the underground, modified stems. Do not disturb the plant unnecessarily as this inhibits flowering.



Scadoxus multiflorus subsp. *katharinae*

When the foliage dies, the bulbs can be left in the soil

Propagation The parent bulbs propagate quite quickly. Lift the bulbs every 2-3 years and cultivate the small bulbs separately for a year, after which they can be planted out on their own. They can also be propagated from seed.



S. puniceus

S. puniceus

Common name Snake lily; Poeierkwas
300 x 200 mm ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️

Description As before, but the small flowers are arranged in a powder-puff on a long peduncle. It occurs in the southern and eastern Cape, Natal, Orange Free State, the Transvaal and as far up as tropical Africa. The orange or red flowers appear from September to March. It prefers partial shade.

Sparaxis hybrids

Common name Harlequin flowers; Fluweeltjies

Family Iridaceae (Iris family)
200 x 100 mm ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️

Distinctive characteristics Cormous plants with jewel-like flowers in bright or pastel shades, often blotched or marked in contrasting colours around a bright yellow centre.

Description Some of the species of this small genus of cormous perennials grown for their showy flowers, occur naturally in the south-western Cape. In Europe, Australia and New Zealand they are very popular, but unfortunately this is not yet the case in South Africa. Their leaves are typical of the lily-like plants and the flowers are borne on long, slender stems. The hybrids have shimmering flowers and are probably the brightest of all liliaceous plants. *Sparaxis* flowers should be part of the spring display in every garden. The corms are available from reputable seed and bulb dealers.

Cultivation and care Plant the corms 100 mm apart in good, friable, well-drained soil during March. On the Highveld, plant them in a protected spot as they only tolerate light frost. The plants

will only flower well in full sun. Remember to water them throughout winter. Leave the corms in the soil after the growing season. *Sparaxis* species show up well in a rockery and can also be planted in containers. Place the latter on a windowsill that gets morning sun, or on a patio.

Propagation The corms form numerous small corms every year. The old clumps can be lifted after 3-4 years and the corms divided. They also grow well from seed sown in March and April, but will then only flower after 2 years.

Tritonia hybrids

Common name Tritonias
Family Iridaceae (Iris family)
200 x 150 mm ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️

Distinctive characteristics Cormous plants with beautiful flower spikes in which the flowers open from the bottom. The flowers are approximately 20-30 mm in diameter, reddish orange and yellow at the base.

Description The brightly-coloured flowers on graceful, slender peduncles have made these indigenous plants popular all over the world. Native to both winter and summer rainfall areas, they flower in spring or summer, usually after all the other cormous plants have finished flowering. Like most cormous plants of this family, the leaves are long, narrow, sword-shaped and tend to develop dry tips.

Cultivation and care These plants are easy to cultivate, even in places where growing conditions are not too favourable. Plant the corms of species from the winter rainfall areas in March – those from summer rainfall areas are planted in spring – and water regularly. They prefer good, friable soil enriched with compost, good drainage and full sun. The bulbs



Tritonia hybrids

can be left in the soil after the flowering season. A group of tritonias in a rockery will create a bright display.

Propagation From seed or vegetatively from corms formed by the parent plant.

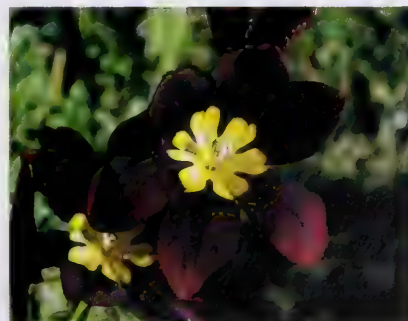
T. deusta

Common name Kalkoentjie
250 x 150 mm ☀️ ☀️ ☀️ ☀️

Description As before. Flowers are reddish orange. This very lovely species grows wild in the south-western and southern Cape.



T. deusta



Sparaxis hybrids



Tulbaghia violacea

Tulbaghia violacea

Common name Wild garlic; Wildeknoffel

Family Alliaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)

300 x 200 mm ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics A rhizomatous plant, clump-forming in habit, with long, narrow, greyish-green leaves and fine, lilac flowers borne in an umbel on a long peduncle.

Description Tulbaghias have a fairly widespread distribution in South Africa. While many species have an onion or garlic smell – hence the common name – the belief that they drive away moles seems to be nothing but wishful thinking. Mass them for a lovely display.

Cultivation and care They are very easy to grow. Plant the fleshy rhizomes approximately 50 mm deep in good soil and water occasionally. Most species thrive in full sun or semi-shade, but must be left undisturbed for a few years. They are fairly resistant to frost and drought.

Propagation From seed or the division of rhizomes

T. violacea

Veltheimia bracteata

Common name Bush lily; Boslelie

Family Hyacinthaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)

450 x 300 mm ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics A bulbous plant with wavy, glossy green leaves that grow in a rosette. It produces dusty pink flowers in spring.

Description Two *Veltheimia* species occur in South Africa, the bush lily and the sand lily (*Veltheimia capensis*). They form clumps and can be identified easily by their leaves and the rocket-like inflorescences (spikes) on solid, erect peduncles. The drooping, tubular flowers are pink, pinkish red, red, or light yellow. It grows wild in the eastern Cape.

Cultivation and care They thrive in semi-shade beneath shrubs or trees in frost-free areas, and also make good pot plants. Plant the bulbs in enriched, well-drained soil and water occasionally.

Propagation The bulbs propagate vegetatively and can be lifted and divided



Veltheimia bracteata

after a few years. Divide them in January and replant them immediately, 30-40 mm deep. This is a quick method of propagation and the new bulbs should flower after one season. Propagation from seed is also successful, but those seedlings will only flower after 3-4 years.



V. bracteata





Watsonia hybrids

Watsonia hybrids

Common name Watsonias or Pypies

Family Iridaceae (Iris family)

1,75 x 0,2 m ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics Cormous plants with long, sword-shaped leaves and solid peduncles bearing lovely terminal, funnel-shaped flowers on a long spike.

Description Watsonias are widespread in many areas of South Africa, from the south-western Cape, the eastern Cape and Natal, up to the Transvaal. About 70 species and a number of hybrids appear in South Africa. They give a splendid, colourful display in their damp natural environment. They are among the showiest cormous plants, especially when massed together in a large bed. Flower colours range through shades of red, pink, orange, mauve and white. Both deciduous and evergreen species occur and the height of the plants, their cultivation requirements and flowering times vary considerably.

Cultivation and care Plant watsonia corms about 100 mm deep in rich, well-drained soil approximately 4 months before their flowering time. Full sun and regular watering are important growth requirements. Spray them regularly with an insecticide against thrips.

Propagation They are self-seeding and multiply easily in nature and occasionally in gardens, but vegetative propagation by means of division of the corms is probably the best propagation method. Lift and divide the corms annually.

Zantedeschia aethiopica

Common name Arum lily; Aronskelk or Varklelie

Family Araceae (Arum lily family)

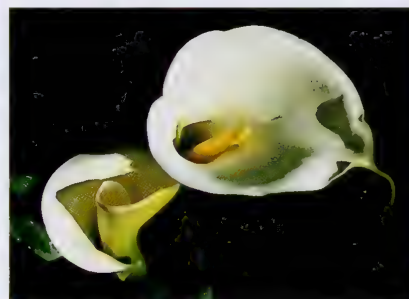
1,5 x 1 m ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ W

Distinctive characteristics A very well-known cormous rhizomatous plant with beautiful leaves and characteristic white flowers. The flowers in fact consist of a white spathe enfolding a yellow, finger-like spadix. Widespread in South Africa.

Description Apart from the familiar white arum lily, there are also species that have yellow and reddish-pink flowers, and some have a black patch at the base of the calyx-like spathe. The yellow spadix is approximately 80-100 mm long and about as wide as a finger. The male flowers are found on the upper part and



W. hybrids



Zantedeschia aethiopica

the female ones near the base of the spadix. They produce plenty of seeds. The large bright green leaves sometimes have numerous white spots. Popular world-wide the blooms make excellent, long-lasting cut flowers.

Cultivation and care In nature this plant occurs mainly in marshy or swampy areas. If you do not have such an area in the garden, it is important to water abundantly during the growing season. Plant it 80-100 mm deep in good, well-drained garden soil to prevent the rhizomes from rotting if they are overwatered in their dormant period. In very hot areas, plant the rhizomes in semi-shade if possible. This plant will thrive around a tap and will also make it look less unsightly.

Propagation It can be grown successfully from seed, but division of the rhizomes is recommended.



Z. aethiopica

6. SUCCULENTS

Succulents store water in their leaves and/or stems and roots in order to survive long periods of drought, and are therefore ideally suited to the conditions in the dry and arid areas of the country. We have a rich variety of indigenous succulents to choose from – their fascinating shapes, varied textures and bright colours will not only add interest to your garden, but create a typical South African atmosphere as no other plants can.

A soil mixture consisting of 2 parts of garden soil, 1 part of compost and 1 part of clean, coarse river sand is recommended. Good drainage is essential for successful growth. Succulents in gardens must be watered sparsely but regularly.

Aloe arborescens

Common name Kransaalwyn

Family Asphodelaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)

1 x 1 m 🌞 🌱 🌿 🌳 🌴

Distinctive characteristics Most aalwyn species grow in the form of rosettes with thick, fleshy leaves and, at different times of the year, produce beautiful flowers in racemes.

Description Aloes are most probably one of the best-known indigenous species. These striking, ornamental succulents range from small to large tree-like plants, large sprawling shrubs to miniature perennials and creepers, and grow well in large and small gardens, rockeries, even the smallest patio or courtyard and miniature rockeries. The most distinctive feature of aloes is their fleshy

green leaves, often bearing short, sharp prickles. The leaves are carried in rosettes on short or longer stems. Large, usually branched, blossoms appear near the top of the crown and at the tip large racemes of small lily-like flowers are borne in a variety of colours, each characteristic of the species or hybrid. Aloes hybridize easily and these hybrids are among the most attractive specimens available today. There are quite a number of aloe growers in South Africa and there is, therefore, no reason for not having some of these truly South African plants in your garden.

Cultivation and care Although they can survive long droughts and will grow in poor soil, aloes flower best when given good soil and watered during the growing season. Excellent accent plants, they are also ideal for rockeries and useful for dry, windy parts in large gardens. Check

the leaves thoroughly for pests and insects; these can be controlled effectively with insecticides.

Propagation Many species propagate vegetatively with offsets growing from the stem base and forming small plants that can be cut and planted. Aloe seed can be sown in spring, but I strongly recommend buying large aloes from aloe growers.



A. ferox

A. ferox

Common name Riversdal aloe; Tap- or Kransaalwyn

2 x 1 m 🌞 🌱 🌿 🌳 🌴

Description This species is perhaps the best known of all aloes – it grows in the Riversdal/Swellendam districts in the southern Cape. It is from this aloe that aloe juice is obtained. The growth form and inflorescence create a wonderful display. Many aloe species and hybrids are available from special nurseries.



Aloe arborescens



Carpobrotus muirii

Carpobrotus muirii

Common name Hottentot fig or Sour fig; Hotnotsvy or Suurvrytjie

Family Mesembryanthemaceae (Vygie family)

0,15 x 1 m 🌱🌞🌧️🌿🌱

Distinctive characteristics A trailing succulent with large, purplish-red vygie flowers in spring. The fruits, so-called figs, make a delicious jam.

Description A genus consisting of perennial succulents with prostrate, trailing stems. Growing upright along the stems, the leaves are approximately 120 mm long, sharply pointed and triangular. The terminal flowers are up to 100 mm in diameter, silky and appear in shades of pinkish purple and yellowish cream. The flowers are followed by edible fruits that resemble dried figs. The generic name is derived from the Greek words *karpōs*, fruit, and *brotos*, edible.

Cultivation and care A hardy ground cover planted worldwide. Few plants can cover an unattractive embankment or slope faster and more successfully than this vygie species. It needs no care and grows so rapidly that it must be controlled. To encourage flowering, water it sparingly from autumn to spring. It is a tremendously rewarding and readily-growing plant.

Propagation Trailing along the ground, the stems put down roots at frequent intervals. Cut pieces from these shoots and plant them 1 m apart.

C. edulis

Common name Hottentot fig; Hotnotsvy
0,15 x 1 m 🌱🌞🌧️🌿🌱

Description As above, but flowers yellow. It grows wild in the Langkloof area.



C. edulis

Ceropegia ampliata

Common name Bushman's pipe; Boesmanpyp

Family Asclepiadaceae (Carrion family)

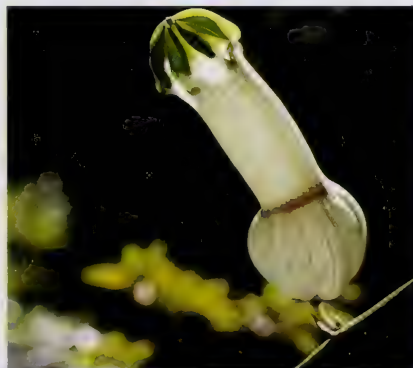
🌱🌞🌧️🌿🌱

Distinctive characteristics The plant consists of fleshy, rather thin, round, green stems which twine around any support. It has no leaves. Tubular, large, light green flowers appear in late summer.

Description A genus of tropical climbers or spreading shrubs of which a number is indigenous to South Africa. A few species are cultivated as house plants. The name *Ceropegia* comes from the Greek *keros*, wax, and *pege*, fountain, and refers to the waxy appearance and strange form of the flowers. Stems are sometimes without leaves, as in *Ceropegia ampliata*. Ceropegias are widespread in southern Africa, but scarce in the western Cape.

Cultivation and care Plant them in friable soil with good drainage. Depending on the species they may be grown in full sun or in some shade.

Propagation Mainly by stem cuttings.



Ceropegia ampliata



C. woodii

C. woodii

Common name String of hearts or Rosary vine; Halssnoerranker

🌱🌞🌧️🌿🌱

Description A striking plant with long trailing or hanging stems growing from a tuber. Leaves are small, heart-shaped and beautifully mottled. Flowers are small, purple-pink and resemble small lanterns. An excellent pot plant (also beautiful in a hanging basket) indoors or on the patio.



Cotyledon orbiculata

Cotyledon orbiculata

Common name Pig's ear; Varkoorplakkie

Family Crassulaceae (Crassula or Plakkie family)

1 x 0,4 m     

Distinctive characteristics This is probably the best-known plakkie species in South Africa. The obovate leaves have red margins and the loose umbels of pinkish-red flowers are borne on long peduncles.

Description This plant occurs in the Transvaal, the Cape, Namibia and the coastal areas of Natal. It is shrub-like, with the thick stem dividing into a number of side branches, their tips packed with leaves. The rounded leaves are up to 100 mm long and 50 mm wide, and are grey or greyish green with red margins. In summer the bell-shaped flowers appear in colours ranging from yellowish red to pinkish red.






Cultivation and care They make wonderful rockery plants in hot, dry areas and also grow well in containers or sunny patios or in a hot corner next to a swimming pool. Good drainage is extremely important.

Propagation From seed, but it is also possible to plant the leaves in good, sandy soil where they will take root – members of this family often propagate vegetatively in this way

Crassula coccinea

Common name Red crassula; Klipblom

Family Crassulaceae (Crassula or Plakkie family)

400 x 400 mm     

Crassula coccinea

Distinctive characteristics Herbaceous or semi-shrubs with fleshy, opposite leaves. The flowers are in dense clusters and are never borne singly.






Description Crassulas are common and widespread in many areas of the country and some truly beautiful species exist. They show up well in rockeries and as pot plants, and with their fleshy leaves which have varying shapes and are often red, reddish brown or glossy green in colour, they are always very attractive. The red crassula, which grows wild in the mountains of the south-western Cape, is one of the loveliest species. It has erect stems up to 400 mm high, and dark green leaves that are imbricated on the stems. However, it is the large, umbel-like inflorescences with their brilliant crimson flowers that are stunningly beautiful – few flowering plants can match this succulent's magnificence in a rockery.

Cultivation and care Most species need bright sunshine but a few grow better in the shade. They can withstand droughts

but are sensitive to frost – plant them against north-facing walls or behind a hedge in areas where frost occurs. Plant them in well-drained soil with a little compost, although they will grow well even in the poorest soils. In mild climates, plant them anywhere in the garden, not forgetting a sunny stoep or patio.

Propagation As they grow so successfully from cuttings (either from the stems or leaves), use this for propagation.

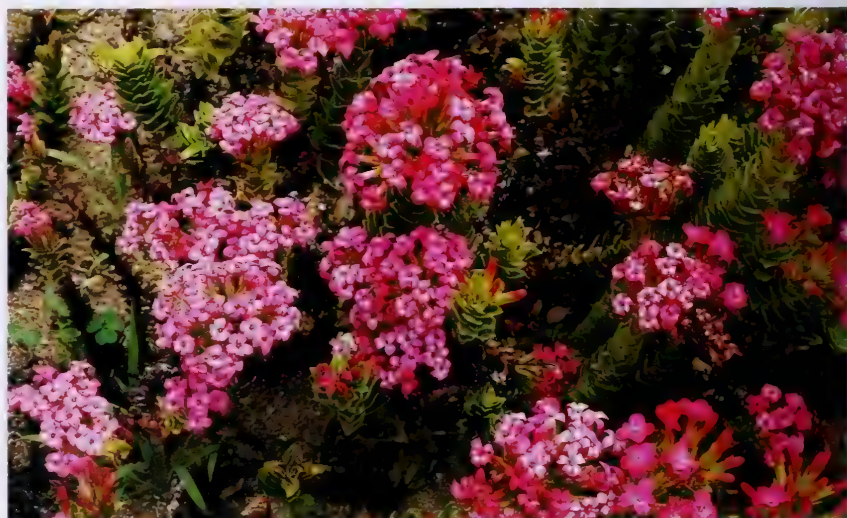
C. perfoliata

Common name Pointed-leaf crassula; Spitsblaarplakkie or Heuningbossie
300 x 300 mm     

Description Leaves lanceolate and tapering. Upper surfaces are hollow. Flowers small, scarlet and borne in large umbels, resulting in a very beautiful display in a rockery or container. Grows wild in the Karoo, the eastern Cape and Natal.



C. perfoliata



Drosanthemum bicolor

Common name Mesem, Tweekleur-porseleinbos

Family Mesembryanthemaceae (Vygie family)

600 x 600 mm 🌱 🌞 🌧️ 🌿 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A very typical vygie bush, with conspicuous golden-yellow and red flowers

Description The mesem bears sparkling bi-coloured vygie flowers in spring – the shiny petals are golden-yellow in the centre and red at the tips. The flowers only open fully in warm, bright sunshine. The leaves have small, glittering dots that shine like dew. It has a bushy habit, grows up to 600 mm high and just as wide

Cultivation and care It is suited to poor soil, but needs full sun and good drainage – a rockery is the ideal place. Water sparingly and with discretion, also during the dry winter months inland. This plant tolerates fairly heavy frost

Propagation Cultivate new plants from cuttings planted in sandy soil during summer – this is the fastest propagation method. They also grow from seed sown in spring and summer. Harvest your own seed at the end of the flowering season – pick the fruits and let them dry out in a container as the seeds are very fine.

Drosanthemum bicolor

D. speciosum

Common name Mesem, Vygie

400 x 400 mm 🌱 🌞 🌧️ 🌿 🌱

Description As before, but flowers are bright scarlet with yellow centres in spring – a magnificent display. Grows wild in the Worcester and Robertson districts.



D. speciosum

D. striatum

Common name Porseleinbos or Mesem, Porseleinbos or Vygie

400 x 400 mm 🌱 🌞 🌧️ 🌿 🌱

Description As before, but flowers are pink with darker veins. Grows wild from Namaqualand to Malmesbury, Worcester and Caledon.



D. striatum



Euphorbia cooperi

Common name Lesser candelabra tree; Transvaal-kandelaarnaboom
Family Euphorbiaceae (Euphorbia family)
 4 x 4 m

Distinctive characteristics This spiny, succulent tree reaches 4-5 m (less in gardens). Very striking as an accent plant, with the branches growing candelabra-like from the trunk. It bears reddish-brown and quite showy fruit. Common in the northern Transvaal, and has a very poisonous sap.

Description The form and habit of the more than 200 indigenous species belonging to this genus vary immensely. It includes annual and perennial herbaceous plants, creepers, succulents, shrubs and trees. All species have a milky sap that irritates the skin and particularly the eyes, and is often poisonous. There is a wide variety of euphorbias available – at least one species should be suitable for your garden.

Cultivation and care As most of the attractive species suited to home gardens are succulents, they require sandy, well-drained soil and full sun. When you plant the specimens, add a little compost and remember to water them occasionally – succulents do need water. The smaller species show up well in rockeries whereas the tree-like species, such as the well-known candelabra tree (*Euphorbia ingens*), can be planted as specimen trees. This species even grows in the Cape Peninsula, despite the winter rains. This proves once again that our plants are suited to almost every region in the country if the right growing conditions are provided.

Propagation From seed, but especially from cuttings. When using cuttings, allow the wound to dry before planting it in sandy soil, otherwise it may rot.



Gasteria transvaalensis

E. caput-medusae

Common name Medusa's head; Vingerpol
 300 x 300 mm

Description Spiny, dwarf succulent to 300 mm. Stems are thick, cylindrical and extend radially from the centre of the tuft. The interesting flowers are yellowish green.

E. mauritanica

Common name Yellow milkbush; Gifmelkbos
 1,5 x 1,5 m

Description A spineless, succulent, much-branched shrub with round, green stems. Yellow flowers decorate the entire plant during early spring – a lovely sight. Grows very easily.



Euphorbia cooperi



E. caput-medusae



E. mauritanica

Gasteria transvaalensis

Common name Gasteria
Family Asphodelaceae (Previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)
 100 x 100 mm

Distinctive characteristics A rosette-like, fleshy plant with white-mottled green leaves. Very distinctive of the gasterias are the pendant and pot-bellied flowers – they are pink with greenish tips and appear in summer. They strongly resemble aloes.

Description About 50 species belong to this genus of indigenous succulents, grown for their interesting variety of leaf shapes and textures, as well as their spikes of red or pink, inverted bell-shaped flowers. The plants are generally

stemless and the leaves, either forming rosettes or rising out of the ground in pairs, are often speckled with many colours and have rough or warty surfaces. The generic name comes from the Greek *gaster*, belly, most probably referring to the pot-bellied shape of the flowers.

Cultivation and care Like aloes, they prefer loose, sandy soil with some compost and hot, full sunshine. Plant the bigger ones in a rockery, but the ideal places for the large variety of smaller species are miniature rockeries or special rockery pockets. White pebbles in between the plants accentuate their interesting appearance. Water them sparingly but regularly throughout the year.

Propagation From seed, but also vegetatively by means of runners produced by the parent plant.

Haworthia cymbiformis

Common name Haworthia
Family Asphodelaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)
50 x 50 mm 🌱🌞🌧️🌿🌿

Distinctive characteristics Aloe-like plants that bear their leaves in attractive 'cushions' or rosettes, sometimes level with the soil surface. They are mainly cultivated for their often dotted, mottled, ridged and striped green leaves. Flowers are greenish white and inconspicuous. These plants are similar to stemless aloes to which they are closely related.

Description *Haworthia* species occur mainly in the Little Karoo and other regions of the Cape. They are small, perennial succulents, often growing in dense groups formed by offsets. The stems are either erect, prostrate or rhizomatous; the fleshy or leathery leaves often imbricated, spiral or in basal rosettes. Some species have tuberculate leaves. The long, open clusters of flowers are generally whitish green in colour.

Cultivation and care As most *Haworthia* species are succulents, plant them in sandy soil with good drainage and in full sun. They are small plants, ideal for a miniature rockery or grouped in a rockery pocket. Small stones of varying shapes, sizes and colours placed among the haworthias will enhance their beauty.

Propagation Many species form offsets that develop into new plants – make use of this vegetative propagation method. Cut the small plants from the parent plant, preferably in spring or summer. If they lack roots, allow them to dry out for 3 days before planting.



Haworthia cymbiformis

Kalanchoe longiflora

Common name Rooiblaarplakkie
Family Crassulaceae (Crassula or Plakkie family)
200 x 200 mm 🌱🌞🌧️🌿🌿

Distinctive characteristics A strong grower with very attractive reddish-brown, succulent leaves.

Description About 20 species in South Africa belong to this genus. Although widespread, they are seldom found on the Highveld. Some are herbs and others small shrubs. Grown mainly for their lovely foliage.

Cultivation and care They are excellent rockery plants in hot, dry areas and perform very well in pots and containers on sunny patio's or in a warm position close to a swimming pool. Plant in sandy, slightly stony soil, with a little compost. Good drainage is important. Water sparingly, but regularly.

Propagation By seed and cuttings. Cover the seed with a thin layer of soil.

Lampranthus coralliflorus

Common name Pinkpurple vygie;
Pienkpersvygie
Family Mesembryanthemaceae (Vygie family)
300 x 300 mm 🌱🌞🌧️🌿🌿

Distinctive characteristics A genus of perennial succulents known as vygies. This species bears large, open, cyclamen-pink flowers and is one of our most attractive vygies.

Description The species of this vygie

genus are probably the ones most often seen in gardens and parks. They vary from creeping ground covers like *Lampranthus aureus*, to large round bushes such as *L. coccineus*, a beautiful dark red species. The flowers have a wide range of brilliant colours in all shades of pink, purple, red, orange and yellow, and their brightness is enhanced by the silky sheen of the petals. In spring, the flowers are so prolific that the plant is blanketed in dazzling colour. They only open fully in bright, hot sunshine. The leaves are succulent and show up well on their own after the flowering season.

Cultivation and care Although native to the winter rainfall areas, it adapts very well in the summer rainfall areas and will even tolerate fairly heavy frost. Any soil with good drainage will provide for its growing needs. Water it occasionally even though it can tolerate droughts.

Propagation It grows quickly from cuttings planted in summer. Seed can be sown in spring with equal success.



Kalanchoe longiflora



Lampranthus coralliflorus

L. blandus

Common name Pale pink lampranthus;
Ligpienksandvygie
300 x 300 mm



Description Spreading with pink flowers
in spring

L. coccineus

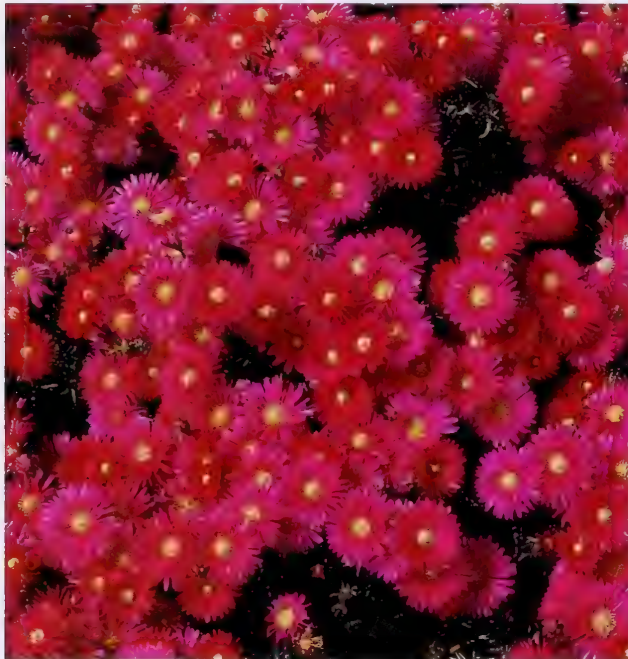
Common name Red lampranthus; Wyn-
rooisandvygie
300 x 300 mm



Description Bright purple-red flowers in
spring.



L. blandus



L. coccineus



L. glaucus

L. glaucus

Common name Yellow lampranthus;
Geelsandvygie
150 x 150 mm



Description Flowers yellow or lemon-
yellow in spring.

L. roseus

Common name Red vygie; Rooi-
sandvygie
300 x 300 mm



Description Flowers pink, red or white in
spring.

L. roseus



Lithops turbiniformis

Common name Stone plant; Perdeklou

Family Mesembryanthemaceae (Vygie family)

20 x 20 mm



Distinctive characteristics A rosette-like dwarf succulent with 2 joined leaves. The upper surface is translucent and has a variable texture, with many grooves or dots. The generic name describes the appearance of the plants very aptly – it comes from the Greek *lithos*, stone, and *opsis*, appearance.

Description The fascinating plants of this large genus mainly occur in Namaqualand, but the species illustrated here has a widespread distribution and is found in Prieska, Britstown, Strydenburg and surrounding areas. They only grow in very dry areas and thrive in pots, miniature rockeries in sheltered positions and in containers on a sunny windowsill. They must, however, be in full sun. The plants are usually stemless and consist of 2 opposite leaves joined to form a symmetrical oval or circular plant, with a split in the middle through which the relatively large vygie flowers appear in autumn. Some species spread slowly to form dense groups or clumps.

Cultivation and care They should be grown in a soil mixture consisting of at least 50 per cent coarse sand or gravel. Plenty of sun and very little water are important requirements.

Propagation Propagate them from seed or by division of the groups or clumps into individual plants.

Lithops turbiniformis

Portulacaria afra

Common name Elephant's food;

Spekboom

Family Portulacaceae

3 x 2,5 m



Distinctive characteristics The well-known spekboom grows wild in the dry areas of the eastern Cape, Natal and the Transvaal. A spreading shrub, it bears small, rounded, fleshy leaves on reddish stems and has beautiful pink flowers.

Description In nature this evergreen shrub grows 4 m high and is almost as wide. In times of drought it provides excellent fodder. When cultivated it can serve as either a decorative shrub or a

hedge plant. The dense umbels of pink flowers appear in summer, and are followed by pink fruits. The spekboom grows quickly in a garden.

Cultivation and care I hope that this drought-resistant plant will be grown on a wider scale in gardens where water is scarce. Plant it in full sun in good, free-draining garden soil and water occasionally. An isolated specimen shows up very well in a fairly large rockery. In areas where very heavy frost occurs, it should be planted in a protected spot, for example against a north-facing wall.

Propagation The quickest propagation method is from cuttings taken from the stem or thick branches. Plant them in coarse river sand and add compost



Portulacaria afra





Stapelia leendertziae (above and below)

Stapelia leendertziae

Common name Velvet stapelia; Fluweel-aasblom

Family Asclepiadaceae (Carrion family)
200 x 200 mm 🌱 🌿 🌻 🌵 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A branched species with stems up to 200 mm long. The remarkable flowers are bell-shaped, large and purplish brown, especially on the inside. There are also purple hairs on the inside. It has a very unpleasant smell.

Description This genus of low-growing succulents is native to the arid areas of the country. The star-shaped flowers are borne on short, thick, leafless stems and

have interesting colours and markings. Some species have a putrid smell that attracts insects and flies for pollination. The stems are green and carry out the metabolic functions of leaves.

Cultivation and care Stapelias make perfect rockery plants and need ordinary, sandy soil with good drainage and full sun. Smaller species show up well in a miniature rockery. They can also be grown in pots. It is very important to water them sparingly.

Propagation Propagation is mainly from cuttings. Stems can easily be removed from the parent plant and they often have their own roots at the base. Stapelias can also be propagated from seed.



7. CLIMBERS

Of all garden plants climbers are perhaps the most versatile and useful. They can be planted almost anywhere to obtain a certain effect, be it to screen unsightly objects, decorate pergolas, pillars and walls, or to create welcome shade in some parts of the garden.

They climb by means of tendrils, modified roots or other adaptations, clinging to supports or twining their way upwards. They are usually given support although some climbers can manage without it.

Follow the directions given for shrubs when preparing the holes and planting climbers (see p. 25). As most climbers are luxuriant and strong growers, they need extra feeding – 3:1:5 (26) SR fertilizer at 2 handfuls per plant every 6 months is recommended.



Aloe ciliaris

Aloe ciliaris

Common name Climbing aloe;
Klimmaalwyn

Family Asphodelaceae (Previously
included in Liliaceae – the lily family)
3 x 2 m ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics This is not a true climber as it must be attached to a support. Racemes are smallish, cylindrical, 100-150 mm long and consist of orange-red flowers with yellow-green tips.

Description This plant is typical of all aloes, but the stems are thin, long and tend to fall down if not supported. When growing among other shrubs it will climb to the top and expose its inflorescences to the sun.

Cultivation and care It grows well in frost-free areas and in almost any soil type. Choose a sunny locality and water sparingly.

Propagation It grows very easily from stem cuttings planted in summer. Cuttings must be 300 mm long and planted in good, well-drained soil.

Combretum bracteosum

Combretum bracteosum

Common name Hiccup nut; Hikranker

Family Combretaceae (Bushwillow family)

3,5 x 3,5 m ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞ ☞

Distinctive characteristics A very attractive creeper with masses of globose orange-red flowers in spikes. Interesting leaves and fruit.

Description This lovely semi-woody, evergreen creeper grows wild in the north-eastern Cape and Natal. It spreads widely and can easily achieve a height and width of 3,5 m. Although it is not frost resistant and prefers full sun, it will also grow well in partly shaded areas. The leaves are up to 75 mm long and ovate.

The very beautiful orange-red flowers in compact, fairly round spikes appear in early summer. In contrast with most other *Combretum* species, the nut-like fruits have no wings.

Cultivation and care Well-drained, humus-rich soil is important for healthy and rapid growth. Water sparingly in winter. As it has no special climbing organs, fasten the limp shoots to a support or position them against other shrubs. This interesting, useful and attractive species deserves to be planted in greater numbers.

Propagation It propagates readily by means of short cuttings that need special care. Hormone treatment of the cuttings can be administered with very successful results.



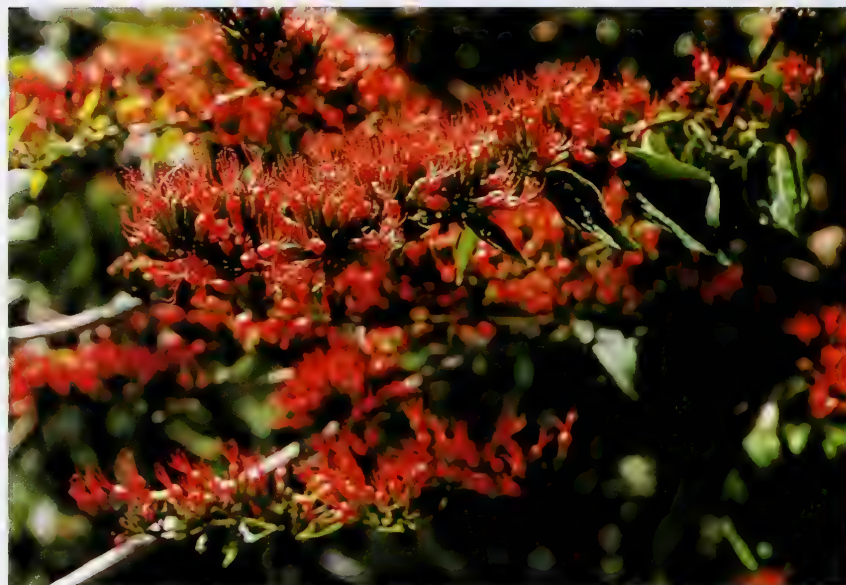
C. microphyllum

Common name Burning bush;
Kieriekapper or Brandende bos
3 x 4 m 🌳 🌞 🌧️ 🌱

Description A climbing, deciduous indigenous shrub with strong stems. It needs a lot of space but can be pruned to a smaller size. The leaves are oval-shaped and shiny green. Small, scarlet flowers are grouped in masses all along the stems. In full flower, the plant appears to be on fire – hence its common name. Flowers are followed by ice-green, four-winged fruits. It will not tolerate sharp frost and may take 1-2 years to get established. Highly recommended for warm and temperate gardens. It grows wild in the Transvaal Lowveld.



Jasminum multipartitum



C. microphyllum

Gloriosa superba

Common name Flame lily; Vlamlelie
Family Colchicaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)
1,5 x 0,3 m 🌳 🌞 🌧️ 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A tuberous climber that supports its trailing habit by means of tendrils formed by the leaf tips. However, it is the very attractive flowers with their erect, wavy-edged tepals resembling small flames, that make this plant so distinctive. A yellow variety also exists.

Description Only 1 species, *Gloriosa superba*, and 2 varieties of this small genus are indigenous. These weak-stemmed, herbaceous plants support themselves with tendrils at the tips of the leaves. Each finger-like, flattened tuber

usually sends up only 1 stem. At the end of December the axillary single flowers at the tip of the stem start to open – there are approximately 5 or 6 flowers to each stem. Sometimes the main stem branches, with the lateral stems also bearing flowers. At the end of summer the stem and leaves die and the tuber enters its dormant period.

Cultivation and care Plant the tubers approximately 100 mm deep in good, rich soil in semi-shade – morning sun is ideal. Water regularly during the growing period until the stem and leaves die. Do not disturb or remove the tubers at the end of the growing season – you will be pleasantly surprised the following spring when the first stem tips suddenly appear above the soil's surface. This plant grows and flowers well throughout the country. Highly recommended.

Jasminum multipartitum

Common name Wild jasmine;
Wildejasmyn
Family Oleaceae (Olive family)
2 x 2 m 🌳 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 W

Distinctive characteristics A charming, indigenous climber with dark green leaves which can be positioned in a hedge, over a pergola or against any support. Wax-white, sweet-scented flowers appear in spring to summer.

Description The pinkish flower bud is rolled like a closed umbrella and has a long, thin tube. The open flower is star-shaped, about 30 mm across. The flowers contrast beautifully against the green backdrop of leaves. It can be shaped into a shrub. Wild jasmine grows wild in the eastern Cape.

Cultivation and care Plant it in good, compost-rich soil and water it well. Feed every 4 months with a handful of 3:1:5 (26) SR fertilizer. It prefers a sunny position, will withstand sharp frost and some drought, but prefers frost-free areas.

Propagation Easily from stem cuttings.



Gloriosa superba

Plumbago auriculata

Common name Cape leadwort; Syselbos
Family Plumbaginaceae (Plumbago family)
3 x 3 m ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

Distinctive characteristics A spreading, scrambling shrub that produces masses of powder-blue flowers in summer
Description Of all the species in this genus, only *Plumbago auriculata*, with powder-blue flowers, and *P. auriculata* 'Alba', a cultivar with white flowers, are garden species. They make a good, informal hedge and can also be shaped successfully; however, if clipped too severely, flowering is inhibited. A fast-growing, hardy plant, plumbago must often be controlled. The bright green leaves are narrow and each flower, 18 mm in diameter, consists of 5 rounded, spreading petals
Cultivation and care This is one of the easiest plants to grow and although it will survive in poor soil and can tolerate droughts and wind, it is better to plant it in good soil and to water it adequately, occasionally administering liquid feeding. Plant it in a position where it can spread and so display its clusters of beautiful flowers
Propagation Shoots touching the ground often form roots from which small plants arise. Cuttings also grow easily.



Plumbago auriculata



P. auriculata 'Alba



Podranea ricasoliana

Podranea ricasoliana

Common name Port St John's creeper; Port St John-ranker
Family Bignoniaceae (Bignonia family)
6 x 4 m ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

Distinctive characteristics An ever-green creeper with large clusters of trumpet-shaped, light pink flowers. It grows wild in Transkei and is one of our most useful creepers
Description Another well-known species, *Podranea brycei* from Zimbabwe, belongs to this genus, and it is

difficult to distinguish between them. The leaves are compound and the leaflets ovate, tapering and glossy green. The lovely light pink flowers with their darker throat markings make this one of the most beautiful creepers. As this plant has no tendrils, it needs support.
Cultivation and care Plant it in good soil in a sunny position, and water regularly throughout spring and summer. Once established, it will survive droughts and light frost. Very showy on a pergola
Propagation It grows very easily from cuttings and develops rapidly. This creeper is strongly recommended

Rhoicissus tomentosa

Common name Common forest grape;
Gewone bosdruif

Family Vitaceae (Grape family)

3 x 3 m 🌿 🌳 ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱

Distinctive characteristics A dense, fast-growing climber. The glossy green leaves resemble those of the grape vine.

Description Cultivated mainly for its lovely foliage. Suited to many soil types, this rampant grower climbs by means of tendrils and needs support. The leaves gradually change colour as they age, being red by the time they are shed. The inconspicuous flowers are followed by large, decorative clusters of grape-like berries. These wine-red fruits are edible and make a delicious jam.

Cultivation and care In very hot areas, plant the common forest grape in semi-shade. Give it plenty of water throughout the year. Once established it will tolerate droughts as well as light frost. This evergreen climber is an ideal cover for an unsightly wire fence.

Propagation It propagates from seed and cuttings.



Rhoicissus tomentosa

Senecio tamoides

Common name Canary creeper;
Kanarieklimpop

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)

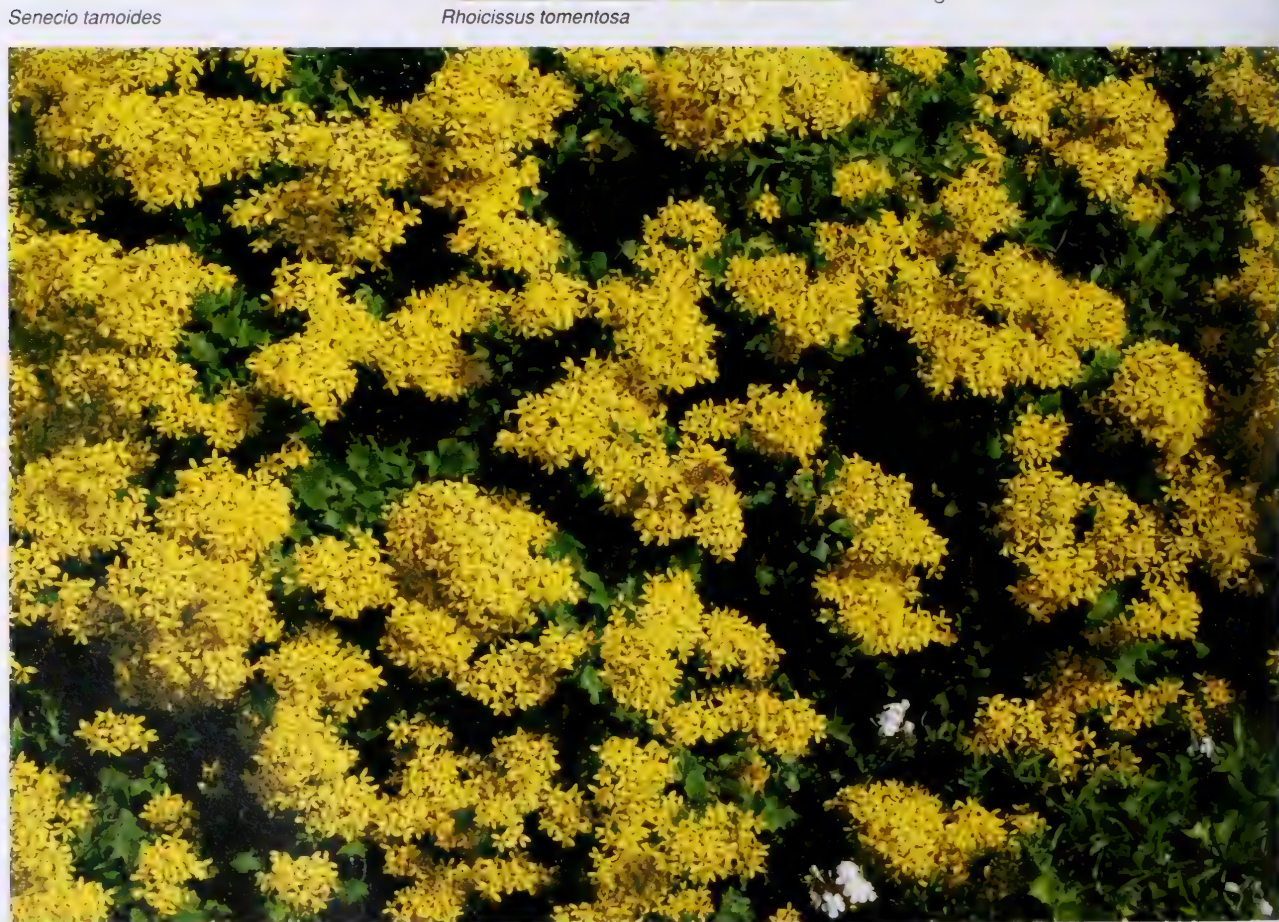
4 x 2 m 🌿 🌳 ☀️ 🌧️ 🌱

Distinctive characteristics The bright green leaves are shaped like those of ivy. During late summer and in autumn the plant is decorated with masses of bright yellow daisy flowers.

Description This vigorous climber grows wild in most of our indigenous forests, reaching right up to the tree tops. Leaf-form is very similar to that of the ivy. When in full flower the masses of bright yellow daisy flowers make a wonderful display, especially when growing up a big tree or a trellis. The plant is mostly evergreen and although it may lose its leaves on the Highveld, it will come into leaf again quickly in springtime.

Cultivation and care An easy grower in good, compost-rich soil. Feed with a handful of 3:1:5 (26) SR fertilizer every 4 months. Plant in a sunny position. It prefers a warm climate and grows quickly and vigorously. Water regularly.

Propagation It grows easily from stem cuttings in summers.



Senecio tamoides



Tecomaria capensis

Tecomaria capensis

Common name Cape honeysuckle;

Kaapse kanferfoelie

Family Bignoniaceae

3 x 3 m     

Distinctive characteristics A spreading, scrambling shrub with bright orange-red flowers in autumn and winter. A rewarding and decorative evergreen plant, it is strongly recommended for gardens throughout South Africa

Description This is a small genus with *Tecomaria capensis*, which is indigenous to the summer rainfall areas of South Africa, already very popular in all the provinces. The plant has very attractive foliage – it is dark green with pinnately compound leaves and the pinnae have serrated margins. As it grows very densely, it is very suitable as a hedge plant. The large clusters of orange-red tubular flowers appear profusely in autumn and create a magnificent display. It is available in a variety of colours, from golden-yellow, orange-yellow and pink to dark red. If planted near a support, it will climb and cover it, and as such is a useful cover for an unsightly wall or construction. A fast-growing plant, it provides its owner with a great deal of pleasure

Cultivation and care It grows in any soil type but needs full sun. Water sparingly but regularly. It is hardy and will tolerate strong wind and bitterly cold conditions. It may be necessary to cut back the shoots if they grow too long

Propagation Where the long, soft stems touch the ground, they form roots in the nodes. Cut these shoots into pieces and plant them – an easy propagation method.






Thunbergia alata

Thunbergia alata

Common name Black-eyed Susan

Swartoognooi

Family Acanthaceae

3 x 3 m     

Distinctive characteristics A fast-growing, perennial twining plant with trumpet-shaped yellow or orange flowers with black or dark brown throats

Description *Thunbergia* is a large genus and the black-eyed Susan is probably one of the species most familiar to gardeners. The generic name commemorates Carl Peter Thunberg (1743-1822), sometimes referred to as the 'father of South African botany', and author of *Flora Capensis*, an account of the flora of the Cape. This plant twines around any support to form a dense stem and foliage cover. It remains evergreen in warm areas and with its beautiful flowers, each 35 mm wide, gives a spectacular display for long periods. The leaves are heart-shaped and slightly coarse. If the leaves and stems of the plant die in winter, they will rapidly grow again in spring. It grows wild in the eastern Cape and Natal

Cultivation and care Plant the black-eyed Susan in any soil type and water occasionally. It is a very rewarding plant and ideal for providing quick cover for any unsightly construction. However, it needs to be controlled as it sometimes grows too wildly.

Propagation The plant seeds itself very easily and successfully. Small plants will appear after the flowering time



T. capensis

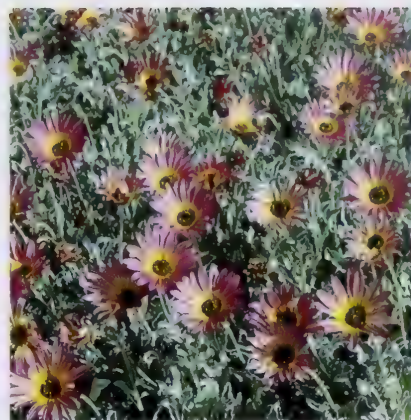




8. GROUND COVERS

Ground covers can be very versatile – not only do they lend a neat appearance to a garden, but they also reduce maintenance, prevent erosion and, to a certain extent, keep weeds under control. They are especially useful for covering slopes and patches under trees where nothing else will grow.

The species included in this book will grow in almost any type of soil. Mix some compost with the soil and feed plants every 6 months with a general fertilizer. Water regularly and remember that they need just as much care as any other plant.







Arctotis auriculata



A. auriculata

Arctotis auriculata

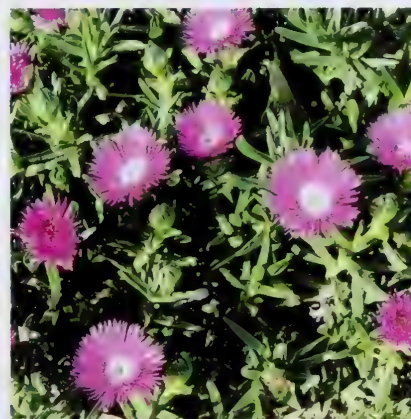
Common name Grysgousblom
Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
 0,3 x 1 m    

Distinctive characteristics A dense ground cover with a lovely grey foliage and large, sometimes multi-coloured daisy flowers.

Description This is a fascinating ground cover but unfortunately it becomes shabby after 2-3 years. Replace it with new plants. The stems trail along the ground, giving a delightful display. Lovely daisy flowers, up to 70 mm across, appear in late winter and spring. Flowers are mostly yellow, pale yellow, dusty pink with yellow and black centres, and even a brick-brown. Flowers extend beyond the foliage.

Cultivation and care They will grow in almost any type of soil, but will yield better results if you add some compost to the soil. Water sparingly but regularly. Plant them in full sun.

Propagation Easily propagated by seed and stem cuttings. Stems lying on the ground develop adventitious roots – these parts are ideally suited for stem cuttings.







Carpobrotus deliciosus



C. deliciosus

Carpobrotus deliciosus

Common name Hottentot fig or Goukum; Hotnotsvy or Goukum
Family Mesembryanthemaceae (Vygie family)
 0,15 x 1 m    






Distinctive characteristics A succulent trailing plant with large magenta flowers. The fruit is used in a special jam called goukum.

Description A perennial succulent with prostrate, trailing stems from which the leaves grow. Leaves are approximately

120 mm long, sharply pointed and triangular. The silky flowers are more or less 100 mm in diameter. They are followed by edible fruits, resembling dried figs. All species are successful ground covers
Cultivation and care A hardy plant that needs no care and grows rapidly. An excellent ground cover for an unattractive embankment. Plant it in full sun and water sparingly, but regularly from autumn to spring.

Propagation Trailing along the ground, the stems put down adventitious roots at frequent intervals. These sections are excellent for cuttings. Plant them 1 m apart

Diascia integrerrima

Common name Twin spur; Pensies
Family Scrophulariaceae (Snapdragon family)
450 x 300 mm     

Distinctive characteristics A bushy perennial up to 450 mm high, producing pinkish-red snapdragon flowers, each with 2 spurs, for a couple of months from October.






Description This dainty perennial flowers abundantly and, when massed in a big bed, gives a lovely display. The flowers consist of a large, wide basal petal with smaller petals alongside and above it. Two spurs grow downwards and backwards, hence the common name of twin spur. *Diascia integrerrima* is the most beautiful and popular garden plant of all the species in this genus and is often seen in home and botanic gardens. It is a showy ground cover specimen.

Cultivation and care This species grows easily in any soil, but for better and stronger plants and flowers, plant it in fertile soil. It withstands heavy frost and requires full sun with little but regular watering. Mass the plants for an effective display.

Propagation Plant seed in spring.

Diascia integrerrima

Gazania rigens* var. *uniflora

Common name Trailing gazania; Rank-butterbloom
Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
0,10 x 1 m     

Distinctive characteristics An excellent ground cover with bright green leaves and golden-yellow daisy flowers.

Description Gazanias grow in clumps or

as ground covers. Planted on a slope, the trailing gazania gives a very attractive display. It is also well-suited to a formal or *parterre* garden. Can be used to prevent soil erosion.

Cultivation and care It will grow in any soil to which some compost has been added. Plant in full sun and water sparingly but regularly.

Propagation By seed or cuttings (root division). The latter grows very easily.








Gazania rigens var. *uniflora*



Geranium incanum

Common name Carpet geranium;
Horlosies

Family Geraniaceae (Geranium family)
300 x 300 mm     

Distinctive characteristics A herbaceous perennial with fine stems, lacy leaves and beautiful, flat, saucer-shaped flowers in pink, mauve or dull purple






Description Geraniums are closely related to pelargoniums, but bear flowers consisting of 5 equal-sized petals, whereas those of pelargoniums are unequal in size. Geraniums are biennial or perennial herbs of which only one South African species, *Geranium incanum*, is worth cultivating. The fine, lacy foliage is borne on slender, limp, straggling stems that often trail over other plants. Flowers are produced almost throughout the year

Cultivation and care It grows easily in any soil type and in full sun. Water regularly and plant it among other herbaceous plants as its own foliage is too delicate to be striking

Propagation Very easily from seed. It is also self-seeding, so be on the lookout for small plants in your garden.

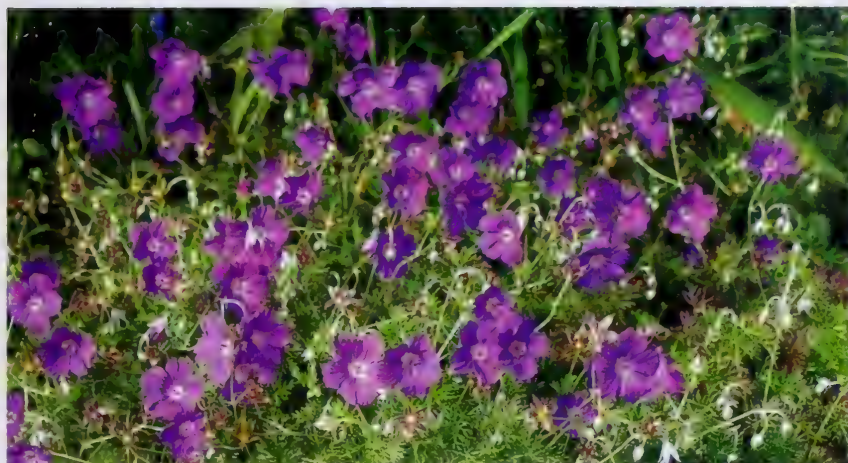
Helichrysum argyrophyllum

Common name Everlasting; Sewejaartjie

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
100 x 250 mm     

Distinctive characteristics A dense ground cover with a silvery foliage and yellow, papery flowers in summer.

Description Many everlasting species are indigenous to South Africa. This genus includes annuals, perennials and shrubs, some of which bear the glossy, papery flowers commonly known as



Geranium incanum



everlastings, in a range of colours and in single and double forms. The form and habit in this group vary considerably. If the flowers are dried successfully, they retain their colours and can be used as decoration in winter. They are hardy plants, have many uses and create lovely displays, especially a ground cover like *Helichrysum argyrophyllum*. This plant has attractive felty, silvery-grey leaves that show up beautifully where it trails over an embankment, wall or stones. Other species have an upright growth habit and finer foliage, but all bear the stiff, papery flowers. The generic name comes from the Greek *helios*, sun, and *chrysos*, gold.

Cultivation and care A successful rockery plant and ground cover that grows well in any soil type. It requires good drainage and full sun, and thrives in containers on a stoep or patio – again, plenty of direct sunlight is essential.

Propagation Mainly from seed sown in spring and summer.

Osteospermum jucundum

Common name Mauve trailing daisy;
Bergbietou

Family Asteraceae (Daisy family)
500 x 200 mm     

Distinctive characteristics An excellent, perennial indigenous ground cover with large pink to purple daisy flowers from autumn to late spring.

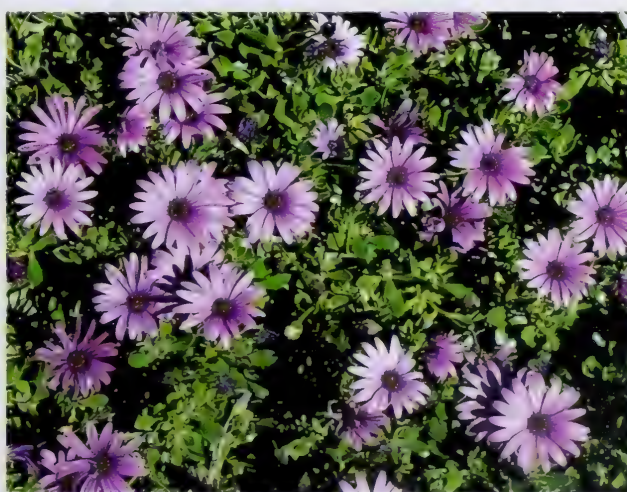
Description A successful plant to cover a dry slope or neglected sidewalk – it will also prevent erosion. It grows luxuriantly and must be cut down to keep them from trailing over neighbouring plants.

Cultivation and care Plant them 1 m apart in any type of soil. It will withstand drought and heavy frost and thrive in full sun. Plants tend to get untidy after 2-3 years and should be replaced

Propagation Stems trailing along the ground form adventitious roots. These parts are successful stem cuttings. Plants self-seed freely.



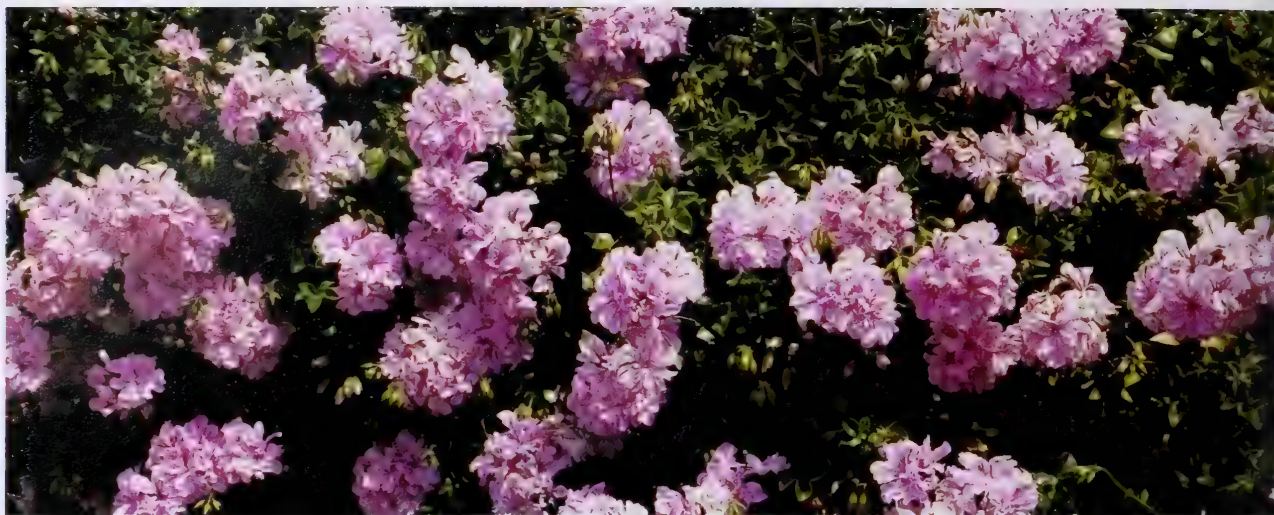
Helichrysum argyrophyllum



Osteospermum jucundum







Pelargonium peltatum

Pelargonium peltatum

Common name Ivy-leaved pelargonium; Kolsuring

Family Geraniaceae (Pelargonium family)
0,3 x 2 m ☀️ 🌿 🌱 🌿 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A creeping or trailing evergreen ground cover with ivy-like leaves and clusters of pinkish-mauve flowers. It is the parent plant of many recognized cultivars.

Description A wonderful range of flowering plants with magnificent flowers has been raised from the original species of this genus of beautiful annual and perennial herbaceous shrubs, mostly indigenous to South Africa. The foliage of pelargoniums is very attractive, and often emits a pleasant aroma when the leaves are rubbed. They flower profusely and the flowers are identified by their 5, unequal petals that are arranged irregularly. The 2 upper petals are close together and are considerably larger than the 3 lower ones. In this respect it varies from the geraniums, a name incorrectly used to describe pelargoniums – the geranium flower has 5 equal-sized petals that are also arranged regularly. The petals of the pelargoniums are usually beautifully striped or marked with contrasting colours, and the flowers appear in a wide variety of reds, purples, mauves, pinks, oranges and many more.

Cultivation and care They grow easily in any soil and in any place, but most of them prefer slightly sandy soil with compost, good drainage and full sun. They are very popular pot plants.

Propagation Few plants grow from cuttings as easily as pelargoniums. They can also be grown from seed, and the seed of a variety of pelargonium species is annually made available to members of the Botanical Society of South Africa.

Protasparagus densiflorus 'Sprenger'

Common name Basket asparagus; Rankkatdoring or Mandjie-asparagus

Family Asparagaceae (previously included in Liliaceae – the lily family)
0,4 x 1 m ☀️ 🌿 🌱 🌿 🌿

Distinctive characteristics A perennial plant with supple stems densely covered by small 'leaves' or cladophylls, that is branches with a limited growth resembling leaves. It sometimes bears attractive white lily flowers followed by red berries.

Description A useful, luxurious ground cover for sunny or partly shady localities. Cladophylls are bright green and attractive. Stems grow from an underground rhizome.

Cultivation and care Plant it in compost-rich soil for best results. Regular water is essential.

Propagation The quickest way of reproduction is by division of the rhizome in late winter.



Protasparagus densiflorus 'Sprenger'



P. densiflorus 'Sprenger'

9. WATER PLANTS

Water lends a charm of its own to a garden, giving you an opportunity to create a tropical atmosphere by using some of the fascinating water and marsh specimens. In our warm and sunny climate, a water garden can be of great value.

Make full use of water plants around a swimming pool. To keep these plants at their most attractive, prune them regularly and remove all dead and damaged plant parts immediately.

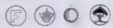
Adiantum capillus-veneris

Common name Maidenhair fern;

Nooiensaarvaring

Family Adiantaceae

300 x 300 mm



Distinctive characteristics A delicate fern with flat, heart-shaped leaflets, resembling light green confetti, on fine pitch-black stems

Description Probably one of the best-known tropical ferns, it is grown indoors (especially in hanging baskets), and in protected positions in frost-free gardens. Its name refers to its fine, shiny and often pitch-black petioles resembling human hair. The fronds are about 150-160 mm long and finely divided into a large number of heart-shaped pinnae. Mature plants bear brown sori on the under surface of the leaves. Its fast-growing rhizomes run horizontally, directly beneath the soil surface.

Cultivation and care Although this species needs adequate light, direct sunlight is very detrimental. Water judiciously: the soil should never be too dry or too wet. Always test the soil before watering. Liquid fertilizers can be administered

occasionally during the active growing period – follow the instructions very closely. Good planting soil is of the utmost importance.

Propagation After a few years, transplant the maidenhair fern during spring. Take this opportunity to divide the rhizomes into sections, leaving at least 1-2 fronds per section



Blechnum tabulare

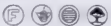
Blechnum tabulare

Common name Mountain blechnum;

Bergblechnum

Family Blechnaceae

1 x 1 m



Distinctive characteristics An attractive, evergreen fern from the southern Cape. It is a very striking plant with glossy, deep green leaves that arch elegantly

Description This lovely garden fern looks like a small tree fern and grows wild in forests of the southern Cape. The stem may reach a height of 1 m and a diameter of 75-150 mm

Cultivation and care Plant it in fairly deep shade and in acid, compost-rich soil. Water amply

Propagation From spores or, preferably, by division in spring.



Cyathea dregei (= *Alsophila dregei*)

Cyathea dregei (= Alsophila dregei)

Common name Common tree fern;

Gewone boomvaring

Family Cyatheaceae (Tree fern family)

3 x 2 m



Distinctive characteristics The trunk grows upright, is black as a result of persistent leaf bases and bears a group of very large compound, spreading fronds at the top. Young fronds are characteristically coiled like watch-springs.

Cyathea dregei is the best-known and most common indigenous free fern.

Description This genus consists of important indigenous, evergreen, tropical tree fern species that are strictly protected. They are lovely ornamental plants and create an atmosphere of refreshing luxuriance in a water or marsh garden. If possible, plant them in groups for maximum effect.

Cultivation and care A rare and expensive plant, but one well worth trying to obtain. Good soil and a marshy area in full sun or semi-shade is the ideal habitat for any tree fern. Because of its habit – a rather bare trunk with a crown of fronds – smaller aquatic and marsh plants, such as arum lilies and wild tibouchinas (*Disotis conescens*), can be planted around it. A tree fern must never lack water. Leave it as undisturbed as possible – never dig near the trunk. Remove old leaves to keep the plant neat. It is always very striking and thrives next to dams, ponds or streams

Propagation In nature it mainly propagates by means of spores that are produced in sori on the under surface of the leaves. This is not a very rewarding method of propagation for the gardener though – rather try to obtain a fairly large plant.



Adiantum capillus-veneris

Cyperus papyrus

Common name Papyrus; Papirusriet
Family Cyperaceae (Sedge or biesie family)

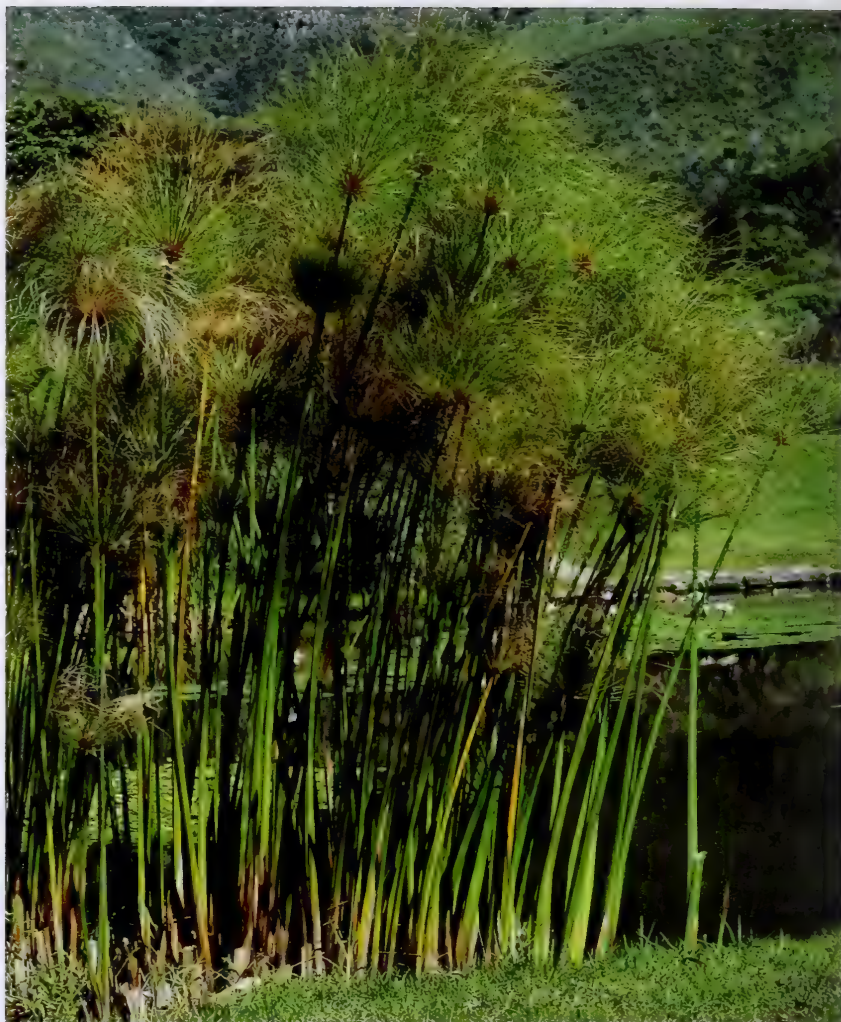
2 x 1 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics Long, bare, erect stems crowned with a mop-like head of thread-like flower spikelets.

Description The plants of this genus are rhizomatous perennials that are very popular as aquatic or marsh garden plants because of their attractive 'foliage'. The papyrus has a very widespread distribution throughout Africa and was the source of papyrus in ancient Egypt. The underground rhizomes send up stems that reach a height of up to 2 m and form large clumps. Each stem bears a mop-like crown of fine, thread-like flower spikelets – its whole structure is very exceptional in the plant kingdom. The stems and flower spikelets are often used in floral arrangements.

Cultivation and care Although the papyrus is usually cultivated as a water garden or quick-spreading aquatic plant, it will grow anywhere – even in a rockery. Group some for a lovely display among finer flowering plants in a fairly large bed. Old stems turn brown and dry – cut them off regularly to ensure that the clump looks fresh and lively. On the Highveld, very chilly conditions will scorch the plant, but new stems will develop quickly in spring.

Propagation Division of the rhizomes is the best – divide them at the end of winter before new growth begins. Plant the rhizomes 400 mm apart in friable soil rich in compost.



Cyperus papyrus

Ensete ventricosum

Common name Wild banana:

Wildepiesang

Family Musaceae (Banana family)

6 x 3 m 🌞 🌧️ 🌱 🌿 🌳

Distinctive characteristics Our only wild banana species is distinguished by its large banana leaves with bright red, thick midribs.

Description This beautiful herbaceous plant is similar to the banana tree, but without edible fruits. It bears showy inflorescences with dark red bracts and short, thick, yellow bananas, but these consist of large seeds and have virtually no soft flesh. Except as an attractive ornamental plant creating a tropical atmosphere with its lovely, large, bright green leaves, the wild banana has no other use in South Africa. It is already a popular garden plant and, despite the cold conditions on the Highveld, the Johannesburg municipality has even planted it

on traffic islands. Although the leaves are destroyed by heavy frost, new foliage appears after a few weeks in spring. It stays leaf-green throughout summer and well into autumn, and only grows 4-6 m high in a garden. It is still fairly common in well-watered ravines in the northern Transvaal.

Cultivation and care Good, deep soil and some protection against strong winds are basically all the wild banana requires. It can even grow in full sun – not necessarily only in semi-shade. Water generously and regularly. The plant dies off after flowering and new plants are grown from seed; it grows very rapidly. *Ensete ventricosum* is valuable as a water garden plant – it can, however, be planted anywhere given the right growing conditions.

Propagation The wild banana grows easily from seeds that are formed in abundance in the bananas. The seeds are as big as marbles and are often used as beads by tribal women.



Ensete ventricosum

Nymphaea capensis

Common name Blue water lily; Blouwaterlelie

Family Nymphaeaceae (Water lily family)



Distinctive characteristics This is a perennial, rhizomatous, aquatic plant with almost circular, floating leaves and beautiful sky-blue flowers

Description This genus of deciduous, perennial aquatic plants is named after Nymphe, the Greek goddess of springs. *Nymphaea capensis* has large, floating leaves and spectacular flowers, and is widespread in freshwater dams and pools throughout South Africa. A great variety of hybrids has already been cultivated and plants with flowers of different shapes and sizes are available. The flowers are often aromatic. The sky-blue flowers of *N. capensis* are carried above the water surface and are very showy with the yellow to orange-yellow stamens arranged in a circle.

Cultivation and care Rhizomes are lifted, divided and transplanted at the end of winter. Buy a special polyethylene container in which water lilies can be grown as this is a very clever way to arrange different flower colours in a pond and also facilitates its cleaning. Plant the rhizomes in good garden soil and lower the containers to a depth that suits the petioles and flower stems, neither too deep nor too shallow.

Propagation Divide the rhizomes.

Nymphaea capensis



N. caerulea



Nymphoides indica

N. caerulea

Common name Water lily; Waterlelie



Description This species is possibly better known and more popular than *N. capensis*. Flowers float on the surface of the water. Hybrids in shades of blue, pink and yellow have been cultivated.

Nymphoides indica

Common name Floating hearts; Geelwateruntjie

Family Gentianaceae

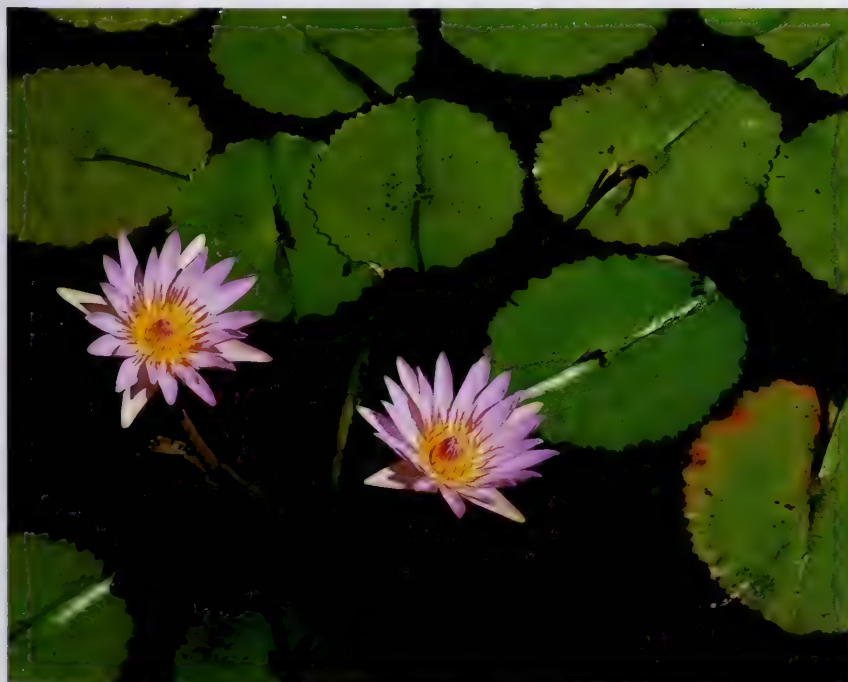


Distinctive characteristics This beautiful, small aquatic plant is identified by its star-shaped, bright yellow flowers with fringed petals. This is the only species found in South Africa.

Description Often called 'floating hearts' because of their heart-shaped leaves, the plants of this genus are widespread aquatic perennials. Although not as showy as water lilies, the flowers are attractive and unusual. These fine, almost delicate plants are formed beneath the floating leaves, sending down long roots into the soil at the bottom of the dam. Once established, they multiply rapidly and must be kept under control. Plant them in a small or large pond.

Cultivation and care It grows like a water lily and multiplies very rapidly, needing no special care.

Propagation A quick and successful propagation method is by division of the plants at the end of winter.



Rumohra adiantiformis

Common name Seven week fern or Knysna fern; Seweweeksvaring

Family Aspidiaceae

500 x 700 mm ☞ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

Distinctive characteristics An attractive fern. Leaves bright green, up to 800 mm long and 700 mm wide.

Description The indigenous seven week fern grows wild in shady forests or forest margins from the western Cape to Natal. It is a very lovely fern, suitable for shady, moist parts of the garden and prefers well-drained soil with a high humus content. It is a strong grower and the leathery leaves last extremely well in arrangements.

Cultivation and care Given the right soil

and a shady, moist position, this fern will grow very successfully.

Propagation By spores or by division of the rhizome.

Typha latifolia

Common name Bulrush; Papkuil

Family Typhaceae (Bulrush family)

2 x 0,2 m ☞ ☹ ☹ ☹ ☹

Distinctive characteristics An aquatic plant with long, slender leaves. The dark brown, cylindrical and almost terminal flower heads on their long peduncles are very useful for flower arrangements.

Description The bulrush is a beautiful accent plant for a water garden, with the leafy clumps and velvety, brown inflores-

cences being most attractive. The inflorescence consists of masses of small, densely packed flowers with the male flowers at the top and the female ones below. When the seeds ripen, the inflorescence splits to reveal numerous fluffy seeds. It has a very widespread distribution and grows from a rhizome in mud or wet soil.

Cultivation and care Being aquatic, this plant will only grow in a marshy or water garden where the soil is either covered by water or very wet. The bulrush prefers full sun.

Propagation The easiest and best method of propagation is to divide the rhizomes at the end of winter. Ensure that you plant rhizome pieces that have at least one leaf bud (eye) – these can be easily identified.



Rumohra adiantiformis



Typha latifolia

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Dietes grandiflora



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All botanical names set in italic.
Names in roman refer to the English
or Afrikaans common names.

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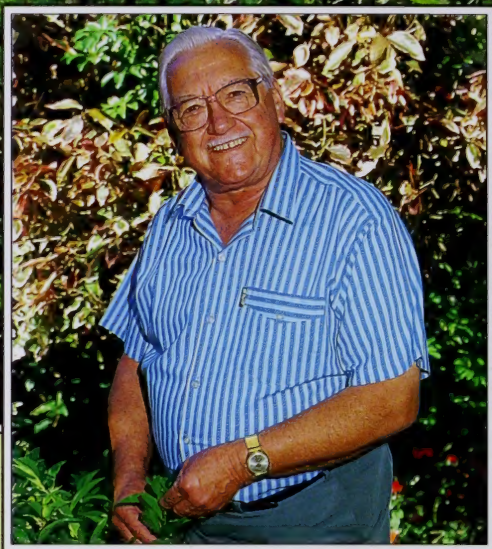
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*T*he unparalleled interest in the rich variety of indigenous plants in South Africa has increased to such an extent that our gardens and parks can today boast an indigenous atmosphere as never before.

Gardening with Indigenous Plants contains some of the most beautiful and well-known indigenous species that are readily available and easy to grow. With chapters on trees, shrubs, annuals, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, climbers, succulents, ground covers and water garden plants, this book provides an ideal opportunity for all gardeners to create an indigenous garden abounding in growth. Each chapter contains a short introduction about the specific plants with handy hints on planting and care. The plant species are discussed in detail and can be identified easily by means of the splendid full-colour photographs. In many cases several species, as well as hybrids and variations, are described.

Professor Kristo Pienaar is an expert on indigenous plants and well known for his popular talks on radio and successful television programmes such as *Plant Inbeems* and *Plante van die Bybel*. Previously head of the Department of Botany at the University of the Western Cape, he is also author of *The A-Z of Garden Flowers in South Africa*, *The South African What Flower is That?* and *Grow South African Plants*.

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